



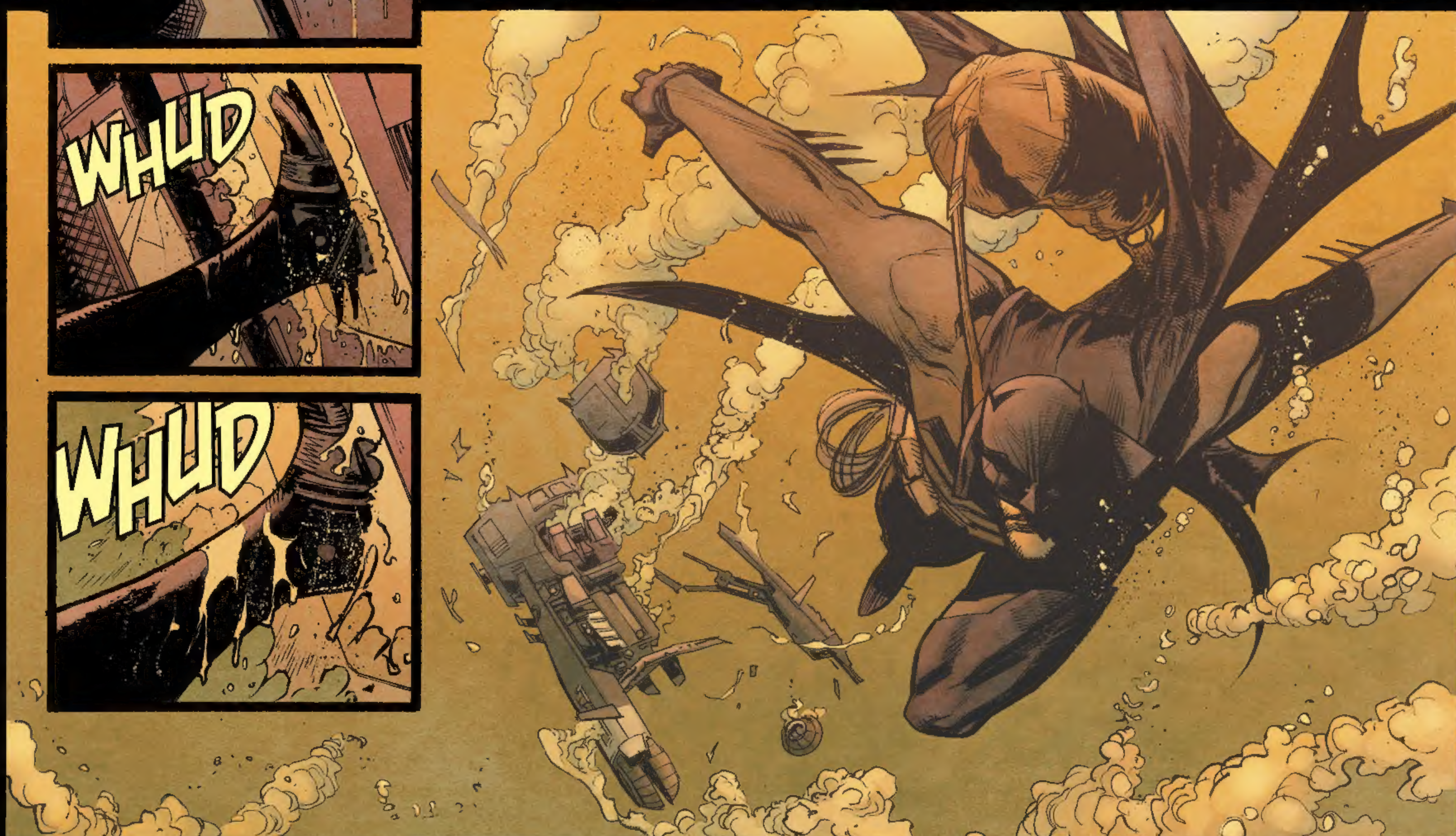
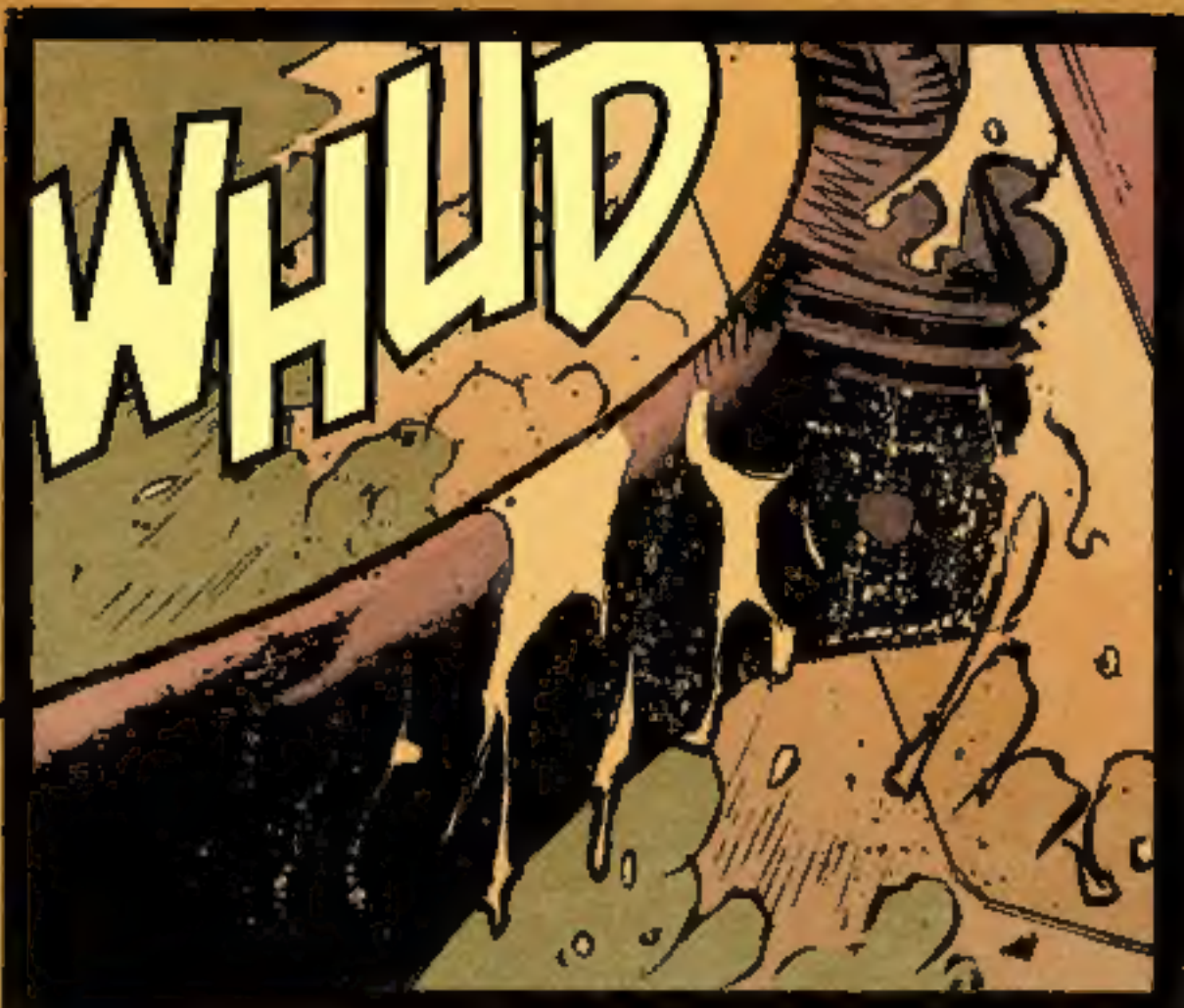
SEAN MURPHY WITH MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

BATMAN

CURSE OF THE
WHITE KNIGHT
BOOK THREE



BATMAN
CURSE OF THE
WHITE KNIGHT
BOOK THREE



Sean Murphy: Script, Art, Covers

Matt Hollingsworth: Colors & Cover Colors

AndWorld Design: Letters

BATMAN

CURSE OF THE

WHITE KNIGHT

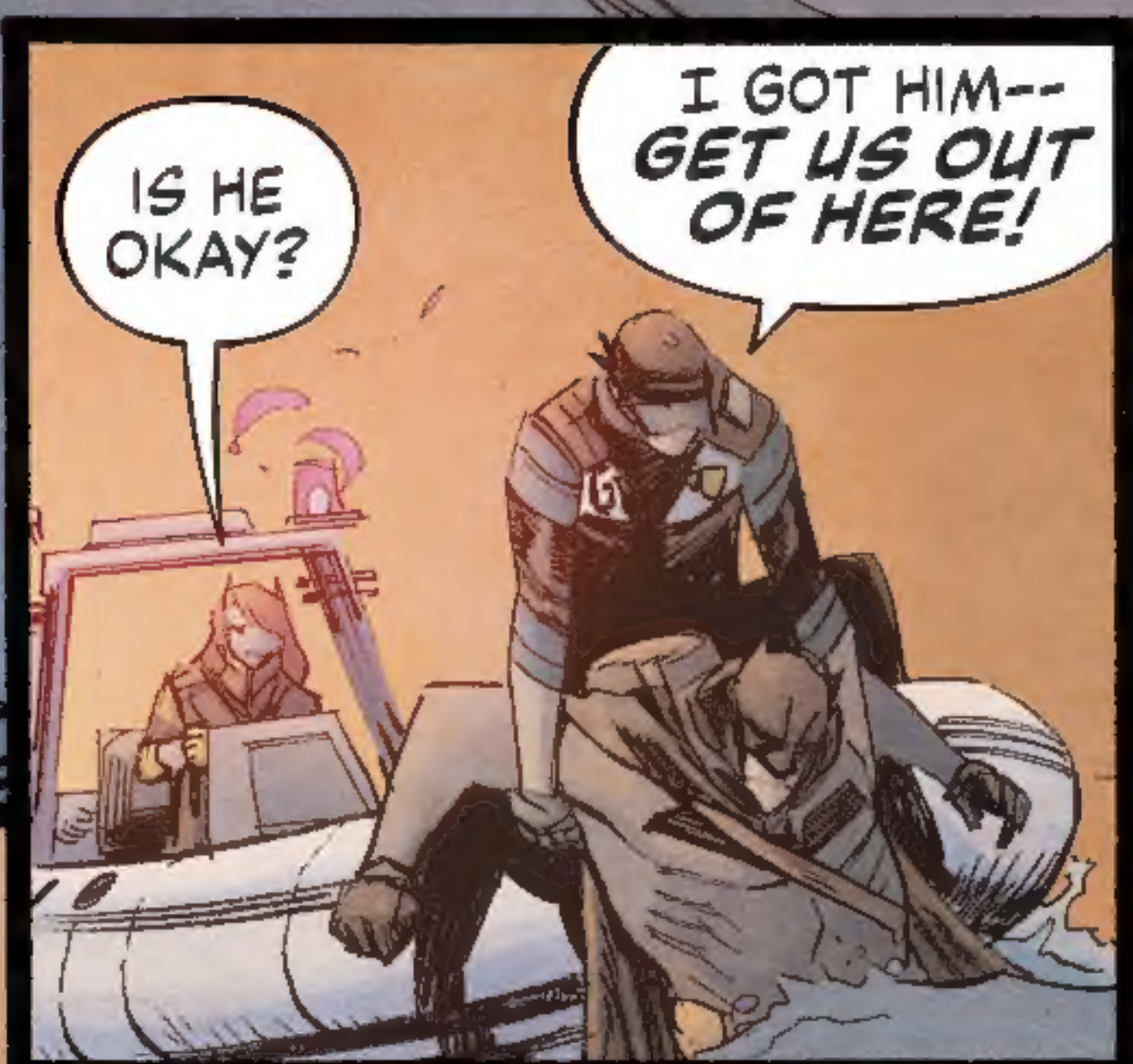
BOOK THREE

Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger



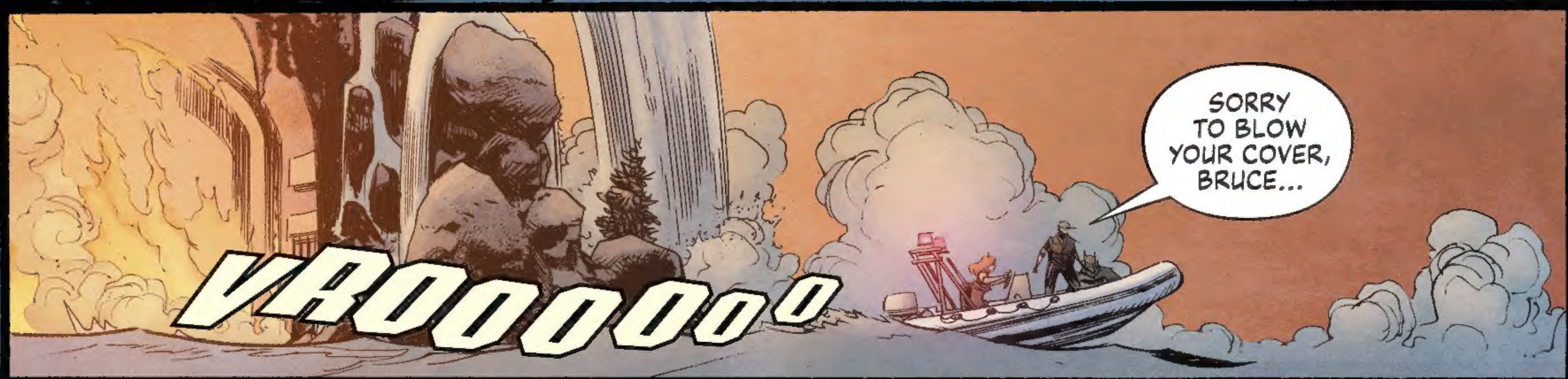
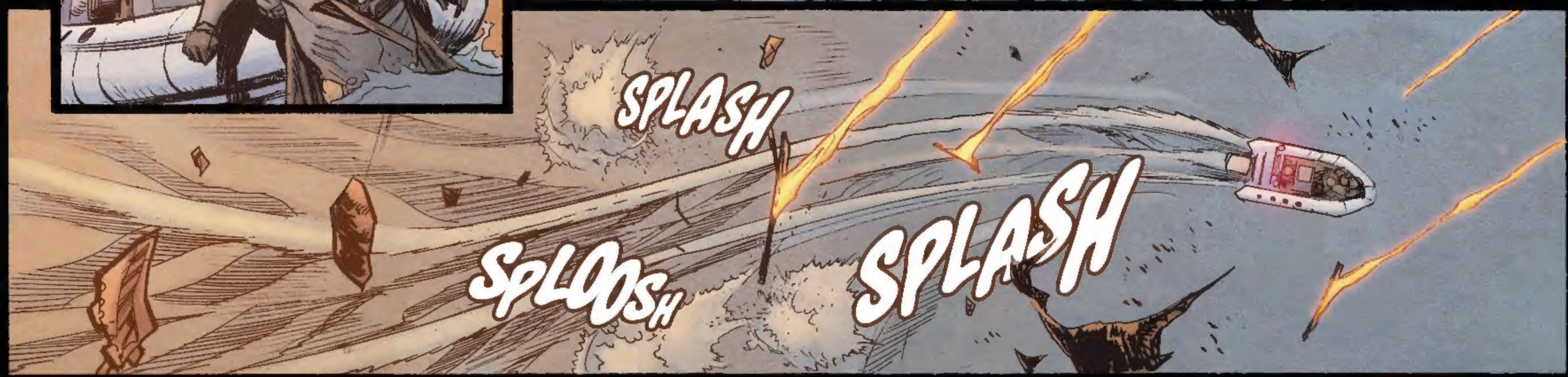
THERE!

?...COUGH
COUGH...?

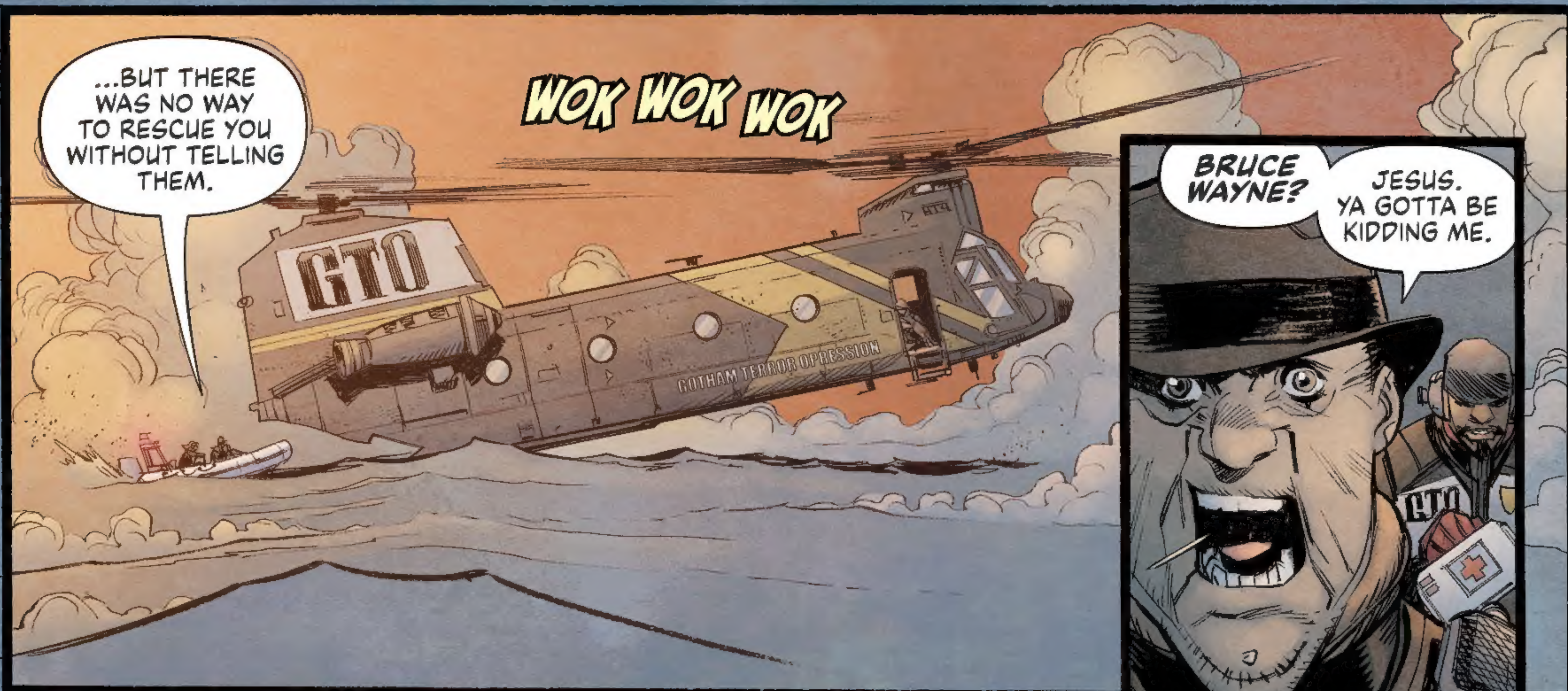


IS HE
OKAY?

I GOT HIM--
GET US OUT
OF HERE!



SORRY
TO BLOW
YOUR COVER,
BRUCE...



...BUT THERE
WAS NO WAY
TO RESCUE YOU
WITHOUT TELLING
THEM.

WOK WOK WOK

BRUCE
WAYNE?

JESUS.
YA GOTTA BE
KIDDING ME.



WOK WOK WOK



"I PLANNED ON
TELLING THE REST
OF YOU THE TRUTH
ABOUT BATMAN..."



...BUT NOT LIKE THIS.

I KNOW. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.

BUT THIS IS A GOOD THING--IF WE'RE GOING TO TRACK THIS GUY DOWN, WE'LL NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING HE AND THE JOKER KNOW.



I ONLY CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIM--STRANGE MASK, RED CLOAK, BIG SWORD.

HE USED HATTER TO HACK INTO THE SECURITY SYSTEM, THEN HE TURNED THE ENTIRE BATCAVE AGAINST ME. I WAS ABLE TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE BATMOBILE RIGHT BEFORE HE DETONATED THE ENTIRE MANSION.

HOW DID HE FIND YOU?



I THINK HE WAS SENT BY A WOMAN NAMED RUTH.

WHO?

SHE WALKED INTO MY OFFICE AT WAYNETECH THE OTHER DAY--SAID THAT SHE WAS WORKING WITH THE JOKER, AND THAT SHE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME.

BLACKMAIL?

SOME BIG BALLS ON HER.



SHE REPRESENTED THE ELITES, AND WANTED ME TO COOPERATE BY STOPPING THE NAPIER INITIATIVE.

AND YOU LET HER WALK RIGHT OUT OF YOUR OFFICE?



I HAD TO--SHE KNEW ABOUT YOU AND BARBARA. I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT SOMEONE LIKE THAT WAS CAPABLE OF.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND--IF THEY KNOW WHO YOU ARE, THEN WHY WOULD THEY BOTHER EXPOSING ME?



BECAUSE WITHOUT ME, THEY CAN'T MAKE MONEY ON THE BATMAN DEVASTATION FUND.

THEY NEED BATMAN...

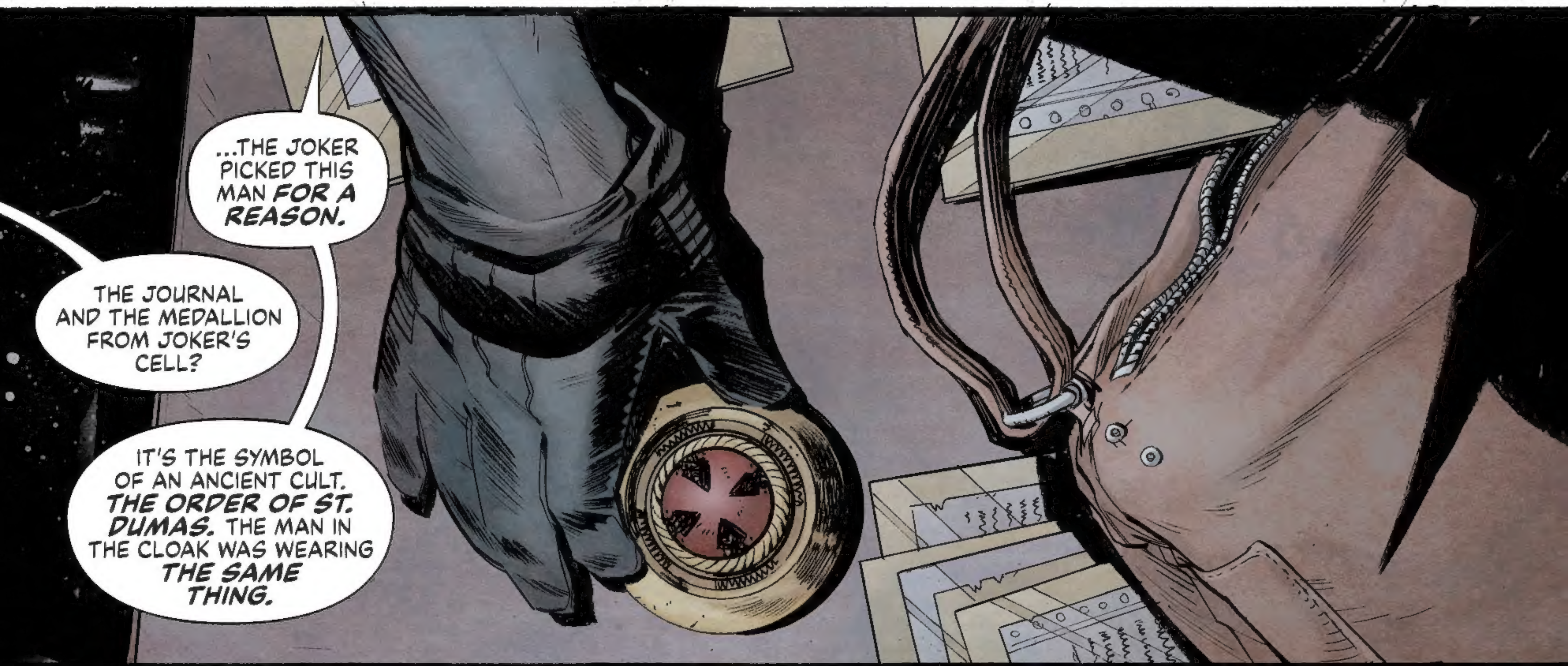
OR A VERSION OF BATMAN WHO WILL COOPERATE WITH THEM...



...ONE WITH
A RED CAPE
AND A BIG
SWORD.

JUST WHAT GOTHAM NEEDS,
ANOTHER **COLORFUL**
WACKO.

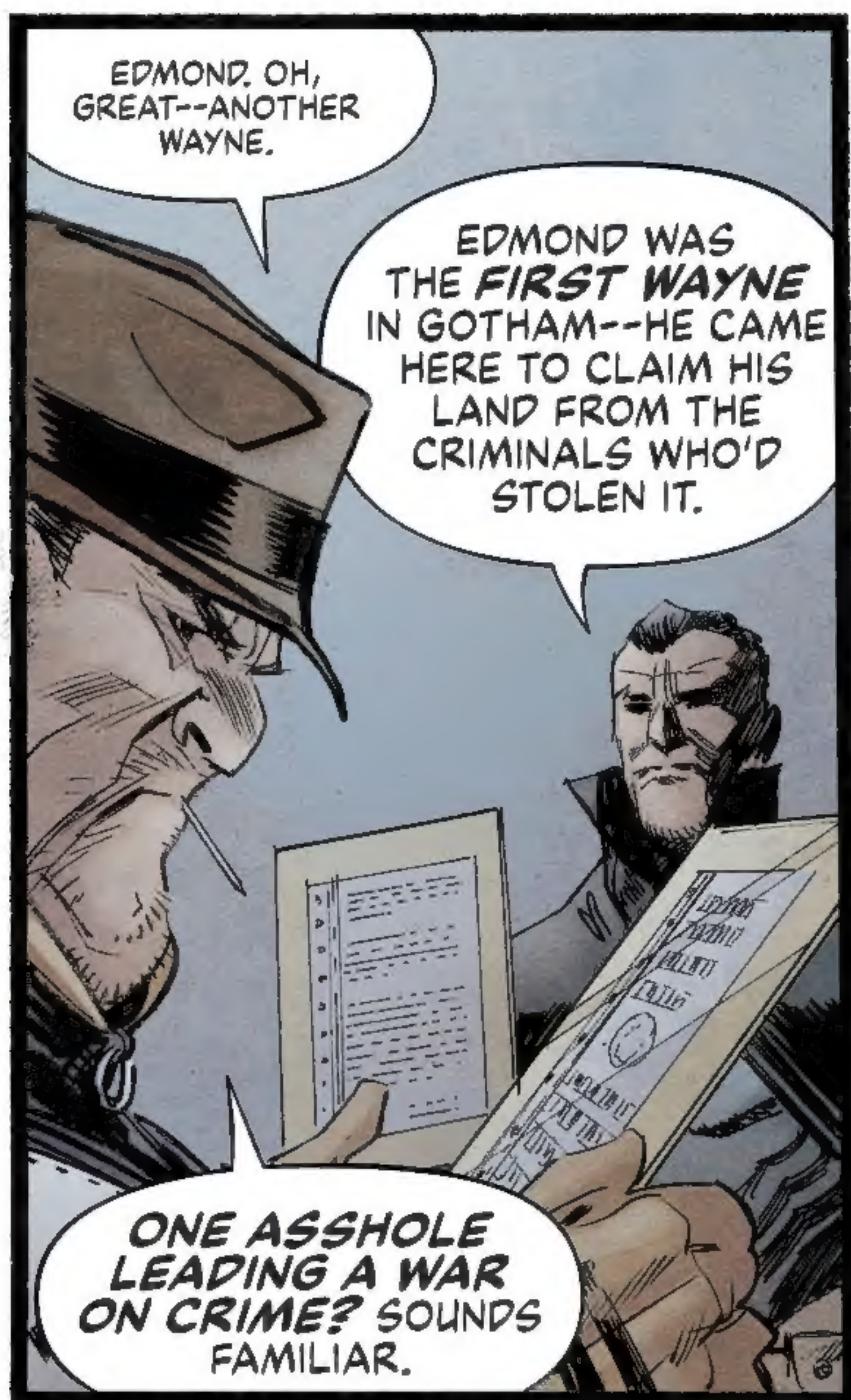
NO, IT'S
DIFFERENT THIS
TIME--HE'S NOT JUST
ANOTHER SUPER-
CRIMINAL...



...THE JOKER
PICKED THIS
MAN **FOR A**
REASON.

THE JOURNAL
AND THE MEDALLION
FROM JOKER'S
CELL?

IT'S THE SYMBOL
OF AN ANCIENT CULT.
THE ORDER OF ST.
DUMAS. THE MAN IN
THE CLOAK WAS WEARING
THE SAME
THING.



EDMOND. OH,
GREAT--ANOTHER
WAYNE.

EDMOND WAS
THE **FIRST WAYNE**
IN GOTHAM--HE CAME
HERE TO CLAIM HIS
LAND FROM THE
CRIMINALS WHO'D
STOLEN IT.

ONE ASSHOLE
LEADING A WAR
ON CRIME? SOUNDS
FAMILIAR.



EDMOND WASN'T
ALONE. HE HAD A PARTNER
NAMED **BAKKAR** WHO WORE
THIS SYMBOL. EDMOND WAS
SUPPOSED TO GIVE **BAKKAR**
HALF HIS LAND IN
EXCHANGE FOR
HIS HELP.

SO THE
GUY WHO BLEW
UP YOUR HOUSE IS
A DESCENDANT
OF **BAKKAR**?



OR JOKER
CONVINCED HIM
HE IS.

GORDON'S ON
THE PHONE--HE'S READY
TO **INTERROGATE**
THE JOKER.



I'LL
MEET YOU
THERE.

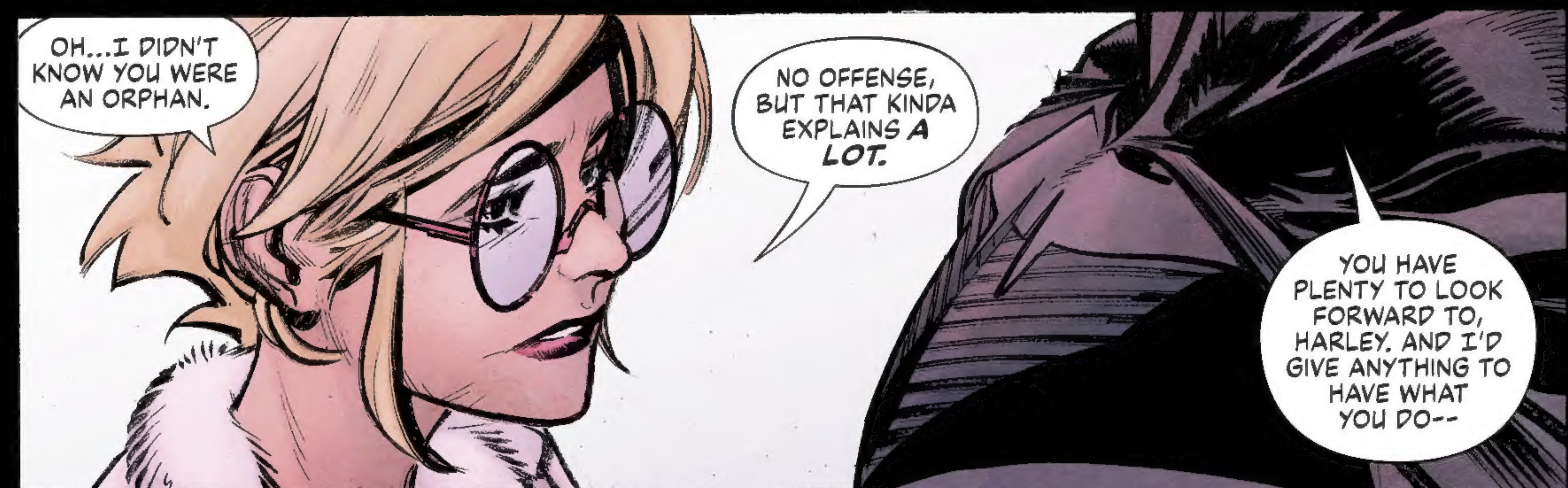
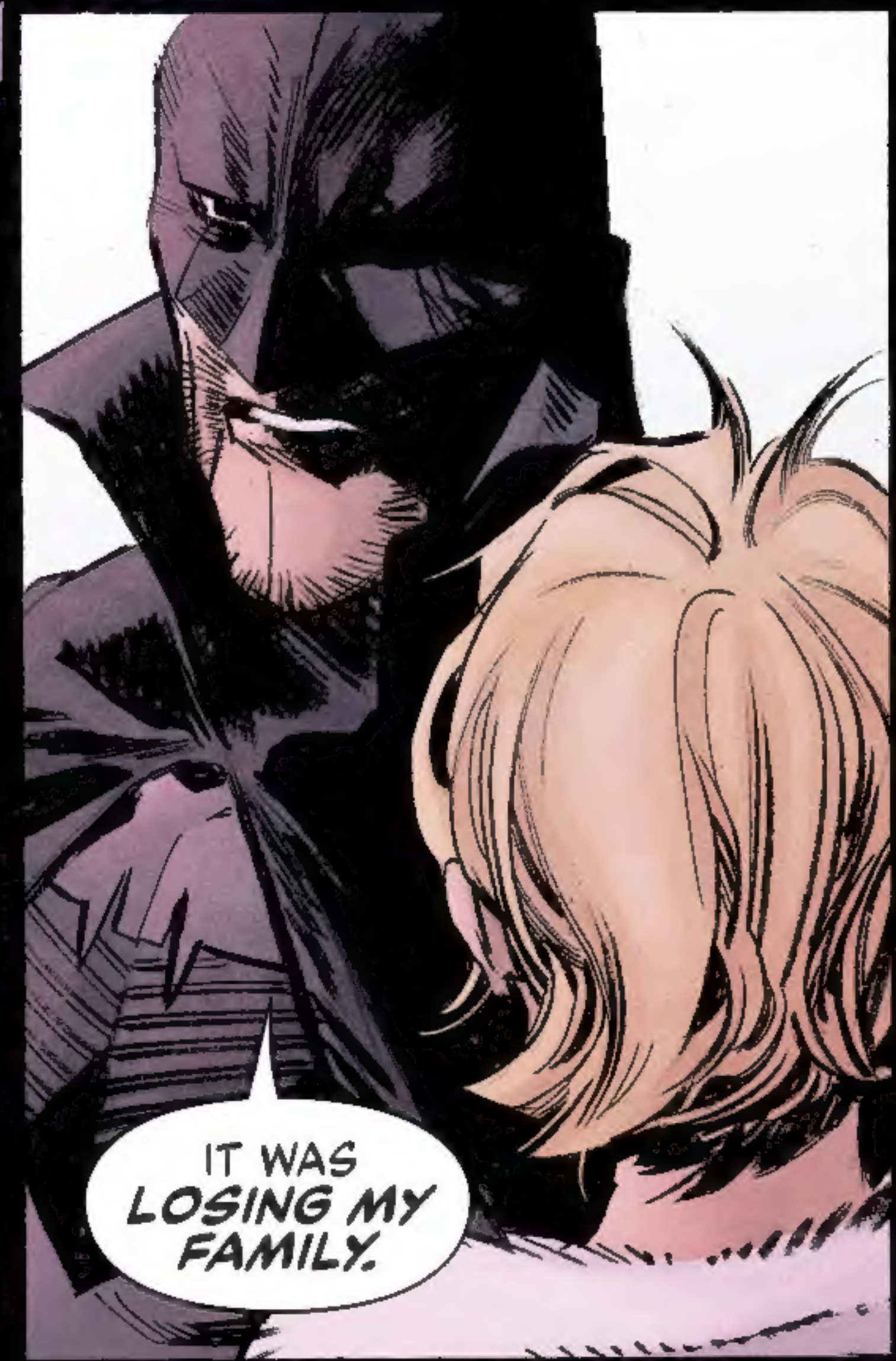
BRUCE,
YOU JUST
LOST YOUR
HOME...

...SHOULDN'T YOU
TAKE SOME TIME
OFF? SO YOU
DON'T--

TURN INTO A
GODDAMN PSYCHO
AND GO OFF THE
DEEP END **LIKE**
LAST YEAR.

JOKER THINKS HE
HAS **ALL THE**
CARDS.

THE ONLY
WAY TO THROW
HIM OFF IS TO
SURPRISE
HIM.





...THE CHANCE TO HAVE A REAL FAMILY?

PANT
PANT
PANT



YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO TRICK ME INTO HELPING YOU GET JACK NAPIER BACK.

PANT PANT
WHIMPER



IT'S NOT A TRICK.

LIAR.

YOU'D KNOW IF I WAS LYING TO YOU.



EVEN IF WE GOT HIM BACK, WHO'S TO SAY HE'LL STAY THAT WAY? I'M ABOUT TO BE A MOM. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT ME ANYMORE--

I WON'T LET HIM HURT YOU, HARLEY. I PROMISE.



I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME.

...

BWAHAHA!

WELL DONE,
BATMAN. SORRY
I MISSED THE
BBQ.

BWAHAHAHA!

WHO IS
HE?

HE'S MY
KNIGHT!

THE ELITES
ARE MY PAWNS,
AND RUTH IS MY
QUEEN! CHECK,
YOUR MOVE!

THIS IS
YOUR BIG
PLAN--GET SOME
PYROMANIAC TO
REPLACE ME?

PATIENCE,
BATSY--THIS IS
JUST THE *SETUP*.
THERE'S A LOT
YOU DON'T
KNOW.

I KNOW
MORE THAN
YOU THINK
I DO.

PRETTY
SURE YOU
DON'T--

FLIP

LAFAYETTE
ARKHAM.

THAT'S
RIGHT, WE
FOUND THE BODY.
THANKS TO THE
HELP OF JACK
NAPIER.



NAPIER?

HE TOLD ME YOU
"DISCOVERED
THE JOKER
THERE."

ALL THESE
YEARS I THOUGHT
YOU WERE THE
WORST VILLAIN
THIS CITY HAD
EVER SEEN.

BUT YOU'RE
JUST A **CHEAP**
KNOCKOFF.



RAAAAAARRRR!



...
WELL, I SUPPOSE
A **GREAT PERFORMER**
SHOULDN'T BE ASHAMED TO
ADMIT HIS **INFLUENCES.**
NAPIER ACCIDENTALLY FOUND
LAFFY WHEN HE WAS
TRYING TO DIG OUT
OF HIS CELL...

"...HE ALSO
FOUND ALL OF
HIS SECRETS.

"AND THAT'S
WHEN **THE**
JOKER WAS
CREATED.



"LAFFY TOLD HIM A JOKE
WRITTEN IN BLOOD--THE
GREATEST JOKE IN
ALL OF GOTHAM. A
JOKE ONLY **I** KNOW...

"...THE TRUTH
ABOUT **THE**
WAYNE
FAMILY.

"AND I'VE BEEN
LAUGHING EVER SINCE,
JUST WAITING FOR THE
RIGHT MOMENT TO
BEGIN MY **GRAND**
FINALE..."



...THE DAY
WHEN I'D FINALLY
GET TO **SHARE THE
JOKE** WITH THE
ENTIRE CITY!

HAHAHAHAHA!

WHAT DID THE
BLOOD MESSAGE
SAY?

YOU'LL HAVE
TO WAIT AND
SEE, BATS!

BELIEVE
ME, GOTHAM IS
**DROWNING IN
SECRETS.**

IF JOKER
WON'T COOPERATE,
I KNOW SOMEONE
WHO WILL...

OH,
THIS'LL BE
GOOD.

JACK, I
KNOW YOU'RE
IN THERE.

**I NEED
TO SPEAK
TO YOU.**



OH LORD--CAN'T YOU TAKE A HINT?
IT'S OVER!

I TELL YOU,
DAMAGED GIRLS MIGHT
BE GREAT IN THE SACK,
BUT THEY'RE ALWAYS
SO CLINGY!

THE MEDS CAN'T
HELP YOU ANYMORE,
JACK--THEY'RE TOO
DANGEROUS.

SO I NEED YOU
TO DO THIS ON YOUR
OWN. **I NEED YOU
TO FIGHT.**



SURE, WE
HAD SOME GOOD
TIMES. BUT LET'S
FACE IT--YOU'RE
WORTHLESS. WEAK.
UNLOVABLE.

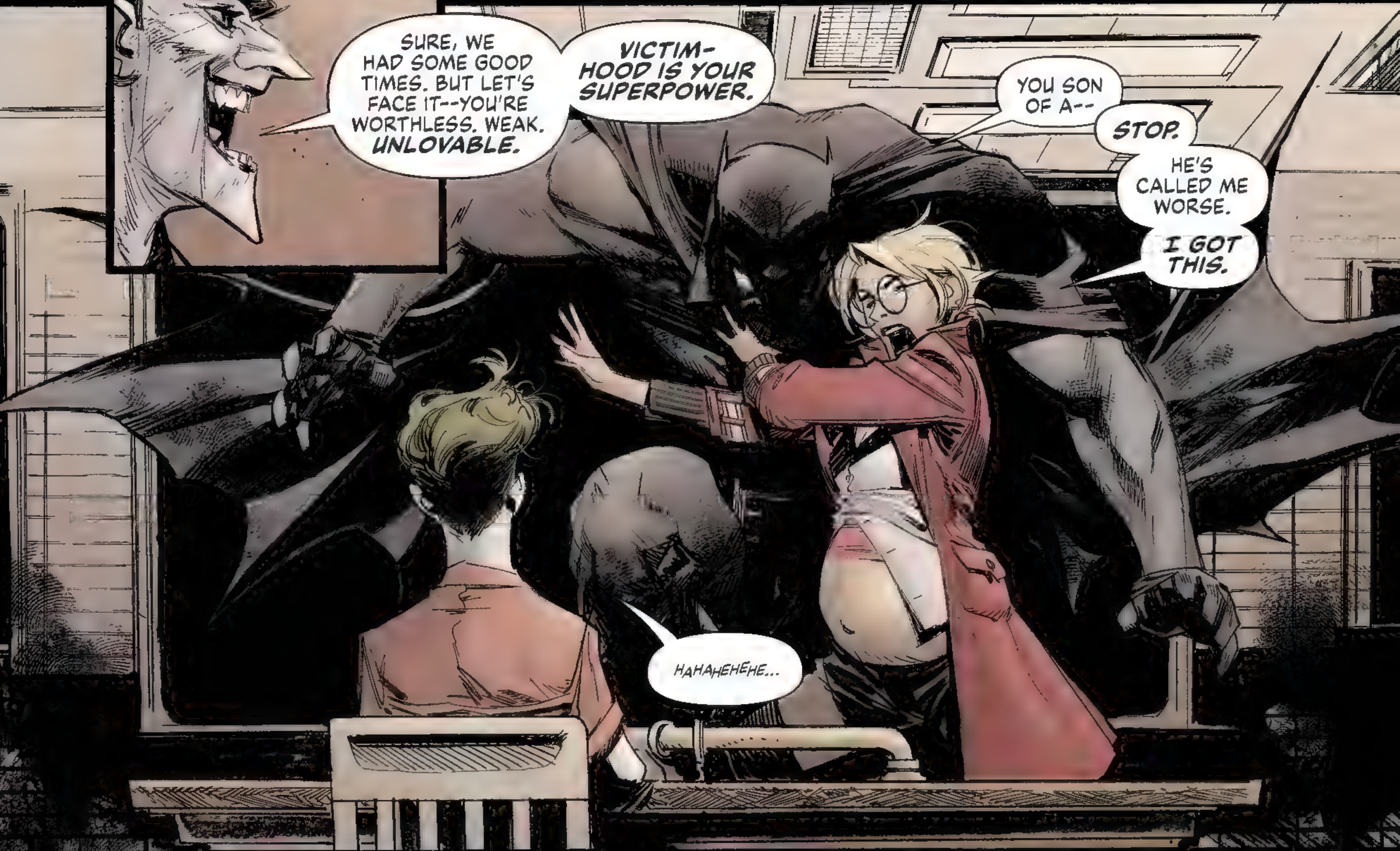
**VICTIM-
HOOD IS YOUR
SUPERPOWER.**

YOU SON
OF A--

STOP.

HE'S
CALLED ME
WORSE.

**I GOT
THIS.**



HAHAHEHEHE...

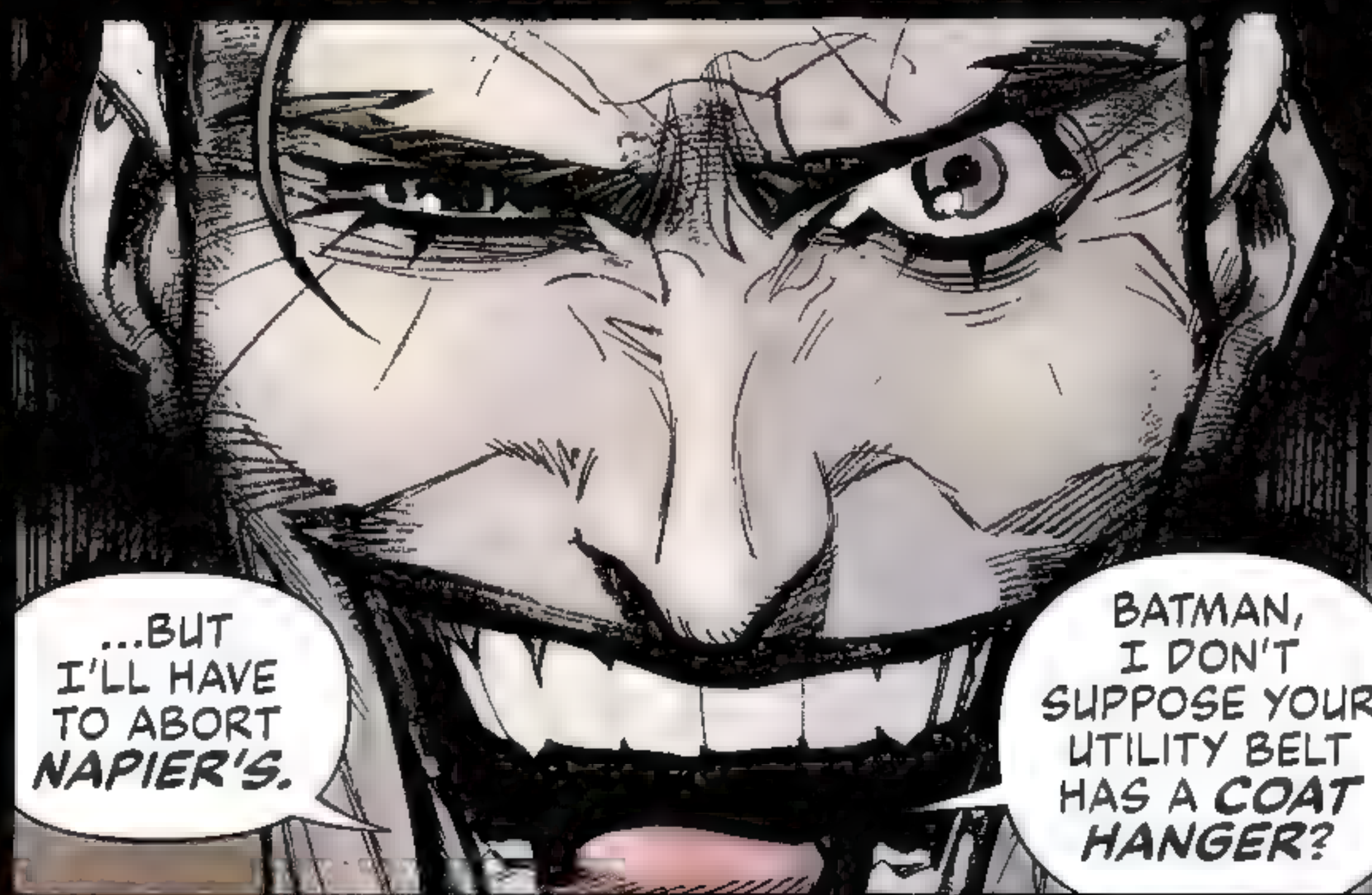


OOOOO,
THAT'S QUITE A
BUMP, **PUDDIN'!**
NOW THINGS
ARE GETTING
INTERESTING.

I'M
GUESSING...
TWINS?

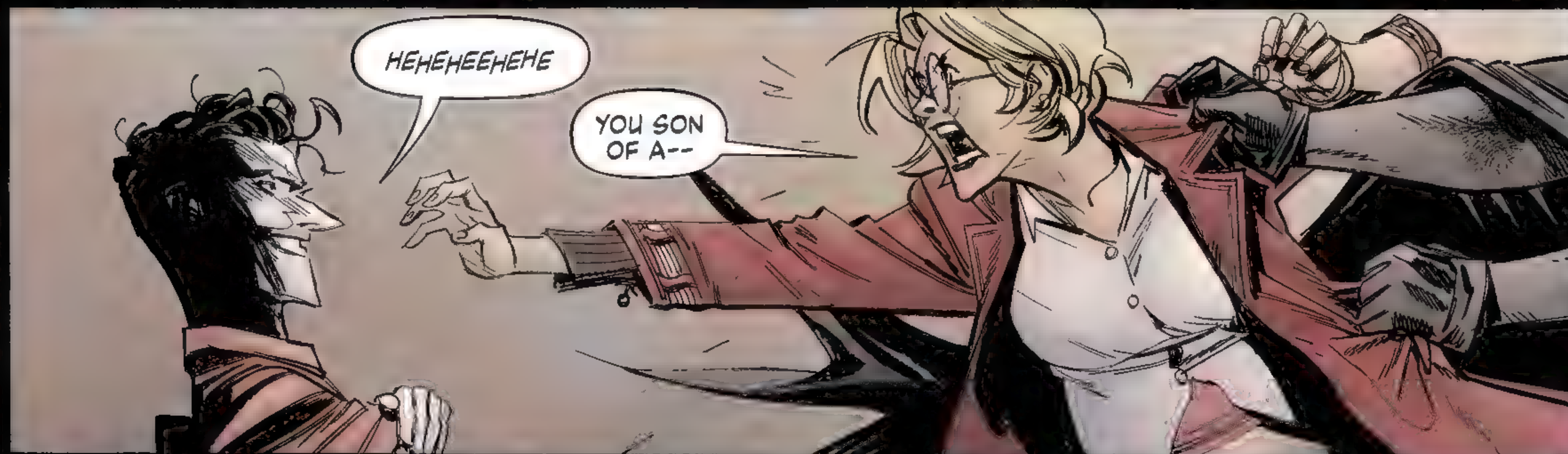
THAT WHY
YOU'RE HERE?
**CHILD
SUPPORT?**

I SUPPOSE
I COULD SPARE
A FEW BUCKS.
I MEAN, ONE OF
THOSE BRATS
IS **BASICALLY
MINE...**



...BUT
I'LL HAVE
TO ABORT
NAPIER'S.

BATMAN,
I DON'T
SUPPOSE YOUR
UTILITY BELT
HAS A **COAT
HANGER?**



HEHEHEHEHEHE

YOU SON
OF A--



SORRY I WASN'T ABLE TO HELP.

NOT EVEN THE SHOCK OF BEING A FATHER WAS ENOUGH TO REACH HIM. I GUESS MAYBE JACK'S GONE FOR GOOD.

I'M NOT SO SURE YET.



YOU DID WELL-- IT TOOK A LOT OF COURAGE TO FACE HIM AGAIN.

KINDA SAD SEEING EVERYONE LEAVE--IN A MESSED-UP WAY, THIS PLACE WAS LIKE A *SECOND HOME*.



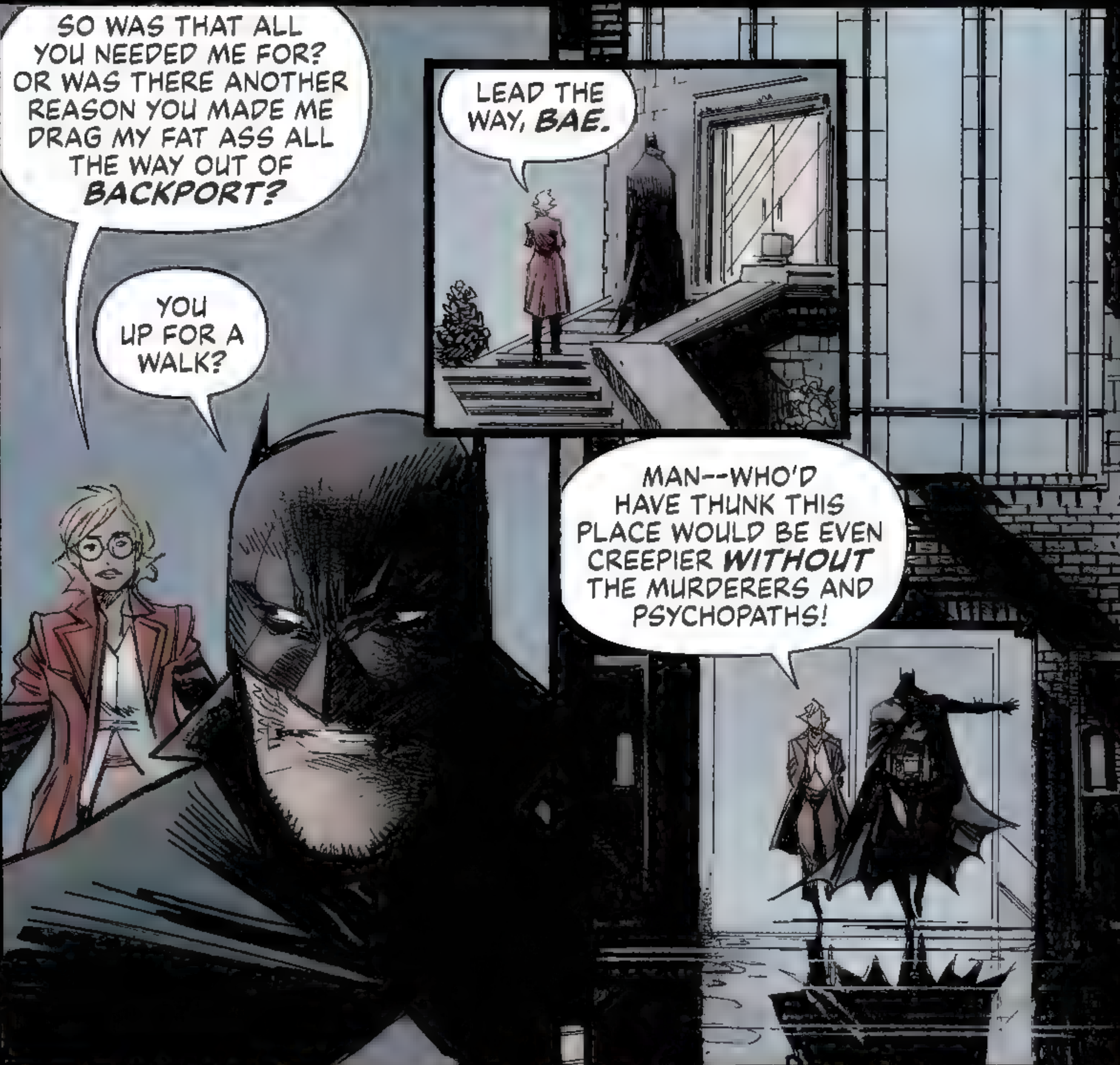
IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY. THE ELITES PERMEATED ARKHAM, SO WE'RE MOVING THEM TO ANOTHER FACILITY WHILE WE INVESTIGATE.



ARRRGG--

YOU OKAY?

YEAH, JUST A FALSE ALARM. MORE COMMON WITH TWINS, I GUESS.

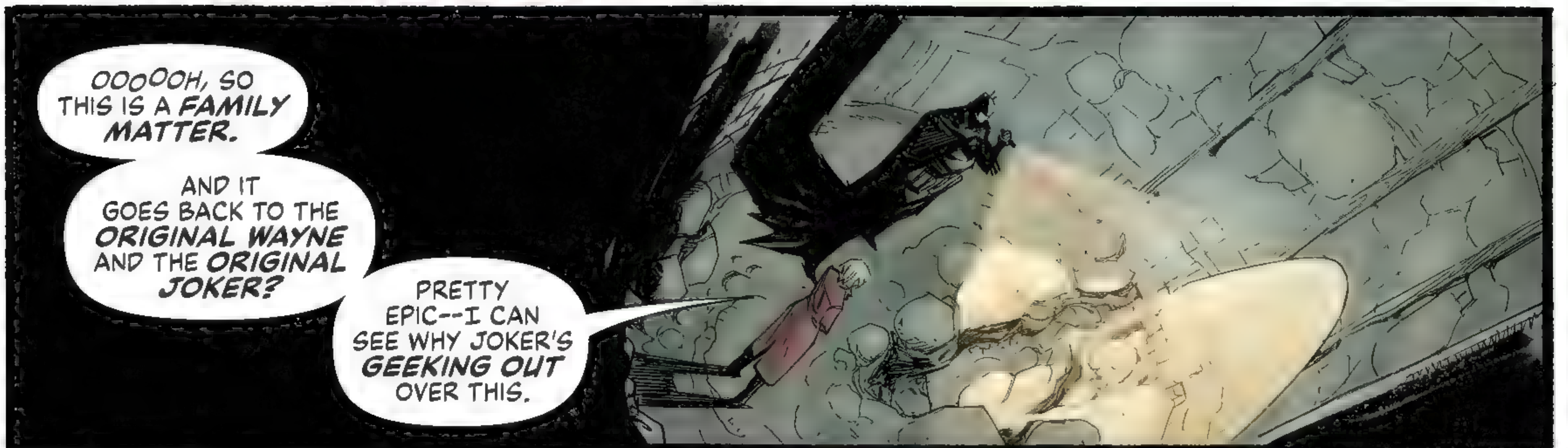


SO WAS THAT ALL YOU NEEDED ME FOR? OR WAS THERE ANOTHER REASON YOU MADE ME DRAG MY FAT ASS ALL THE WAY OUT OF *BACKPORT*?

YOU UP FOR A WALK?

LEAD THE WAY, *BAE*.

MAN--WHO'D HAVE THUNK THIS PLACE WOULD BE EVEN CREEPIER *WITHOUT* THE MURDERERS AND PSYCHOPATHS!





LAFAYETTE SURVIVED THE FALL.

BUT BEFORE HE DIED, HE MANAGED TO WRITE A MESSAGE ON THE WALL IN HIS OWN BLOOD.

AND THE JOKER ERASED IT--SO THE MYSTERY DEEPENS!

HE EVER MENTION ANY OF THIS?



SORRY, NOT A WORD.

HE'S SPENT YEARS PREPARING THIS "GRAND FINALE." AND ALL THE TIME YOU WERE WITH HIM, HE NEVER SAID A WORD?

I'M JUST AS DISAPPOINTED AS YOU ARE.



THE MAN WHO BLEW UP YOUR HOUSE--HE MENTIONED CAIN AND ABEL?

RIGHT.

THIS MIGHT BE HARD FOR YOU TO ACCEPT, BUT YOU EVER CONSIDER THAT MAYBE EDMOND KILLED BAKKAR?



I MEAN, HOW ELSE WOULD THE MEDALLION GET DOWN HERE?

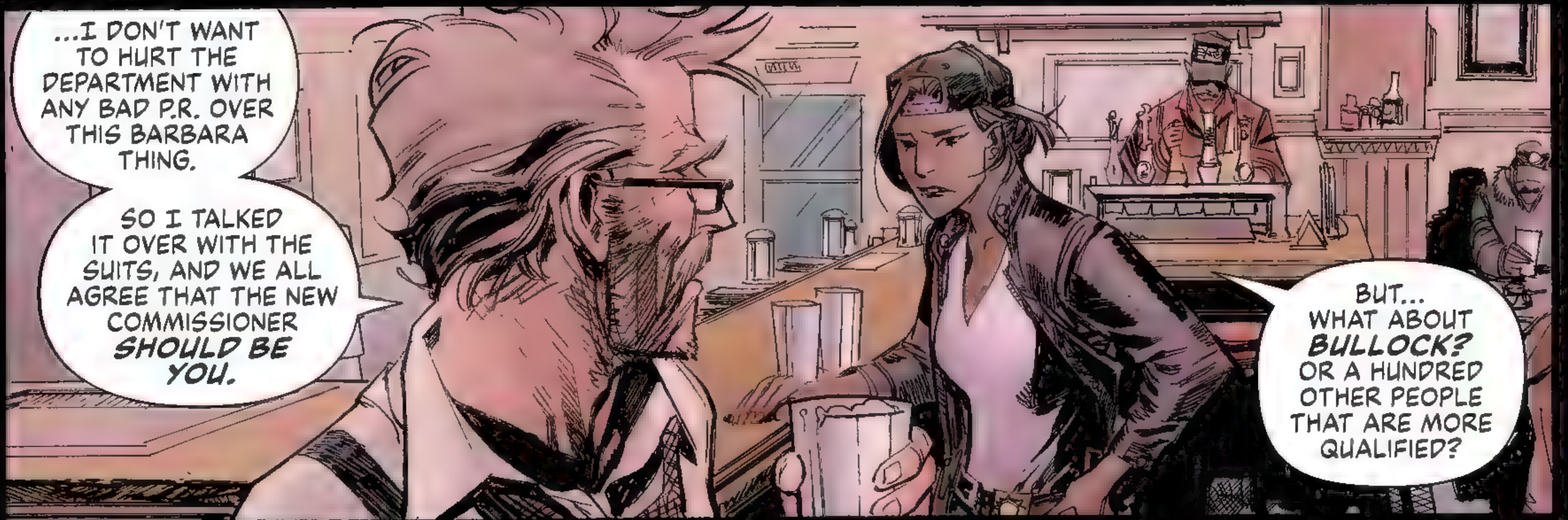
I THOUGHT IT FELL OFF DURING THE STRUGGLE...



YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE'S ANOTHER BODY.



"I'VE DECIDED TO STEP DOWN AS COMMISSIONER..."



...I DON'T WANT TO HURT THE DEPARTMENT WITH ANY BAD P.R. OVER THIS BARBARA THING.

SO I TALKED IT OVER WITH THE SUITS, AND WE ALL AGREE THAT THE NEW COMMISSIONER **SHOULD BE YOU.**

BUT... WHAT ABOUT **BULLOCK?** OR A HUNDRED OTHER PEOPLE THAT ARE MORE QUALIFIED?



TITLE AIN'T FOR ME, AND YOU KNOW IT, KID.

BESIDES, ABOUT TIME WE HAD A LADY AT THE HELM.

EXACTLY. PUT YOUR GLASSES UP--LET'S TOAST TO MONTROYA.



WHAT'S THE MATTER?

IS THAT WHY I'M GETTING THE JOB, BECAUSE OF OPTICS? OR BECAUSE OF SOME **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY** BULLSHIT?



YOU KNOW I DON'T PLAY THOSE GAMES, MONTROYA!

I'M PROMOTING YOU BECAUSE **YOU'RE THE BEST.** AND EVERYONE HERE KNOWS THAT.

THAT'S RIGHT--I'D BE PROUD TO SERVE UNDER YOU.

SAME.



AND IF YOU FAIL, YOU CAN ALWAYS FALL BACK INTO A SECONDARY CAREER, PERFECT FOR A **PUERTO RICAN LESBIAN...**

HERE IT COMES.



...OPEN A FOOD TRUCK CALLED THE **PINK TACO!**

SPLASH

HAHAHA!

YOU'RE AN ASSHOLE, BULLOCK.

YEAH, BUT YOU STILL LOVE ME.

I'VE GOT TO WORK ON ANOTHER SPEECH FOR TOMORROW.

DON'T STAY OUT TOO LATE, **COMMISSIONER.**



LISTEN--SORRY I BLEW UP AT YOU OVER BARBARA. IT'S JUST THAT...*SHE'S ALL I HAVE.*

GUESS I WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT IT WASN'T *HER* DECISION TO BECOME BATGIRL-- THAT *IT WAS YOURS.*

BUT I KNOW MY DAUGHTER BETTER THAN THAT. SHE'S LIKE ME--*NO ONE* CAN FORCE HER TO DO ANYTHING SHE DOESN'T WANT TO.

AND I KNOW *YOU* BETTER THAN THAT--YOU PROBABLY TRIED TO TALK HER OUT OF IT.

JUST PROMISE ME NO MORE SECRETS.

DEAL?

DEAL.



LOOKS LIKE
A COMPLETE
SKELETON.

SOME TRAUMA
TO THE KNEES,
PROBABLY FROM
WHEN HE HIT THE
GROUND.



SURPRISED
THEY MISSED THIS
DURING LAFFY'S
EXCAVATION.

AARRRGH!



PLEASE, GOD--THIS
IS **NOT HAPPENING**
NOW--

CONTRACTIONS?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID
IT WAS A FALSE
ALARM--

WELL
I WAS
WRONG!



COME ON,
LET'S--

SHOVE THE CHUNKY
BLONDE THROUGH A
TINY PASSAGEWAY?
NO THANKS!

**WE'RE
DOING IT
HERE!**

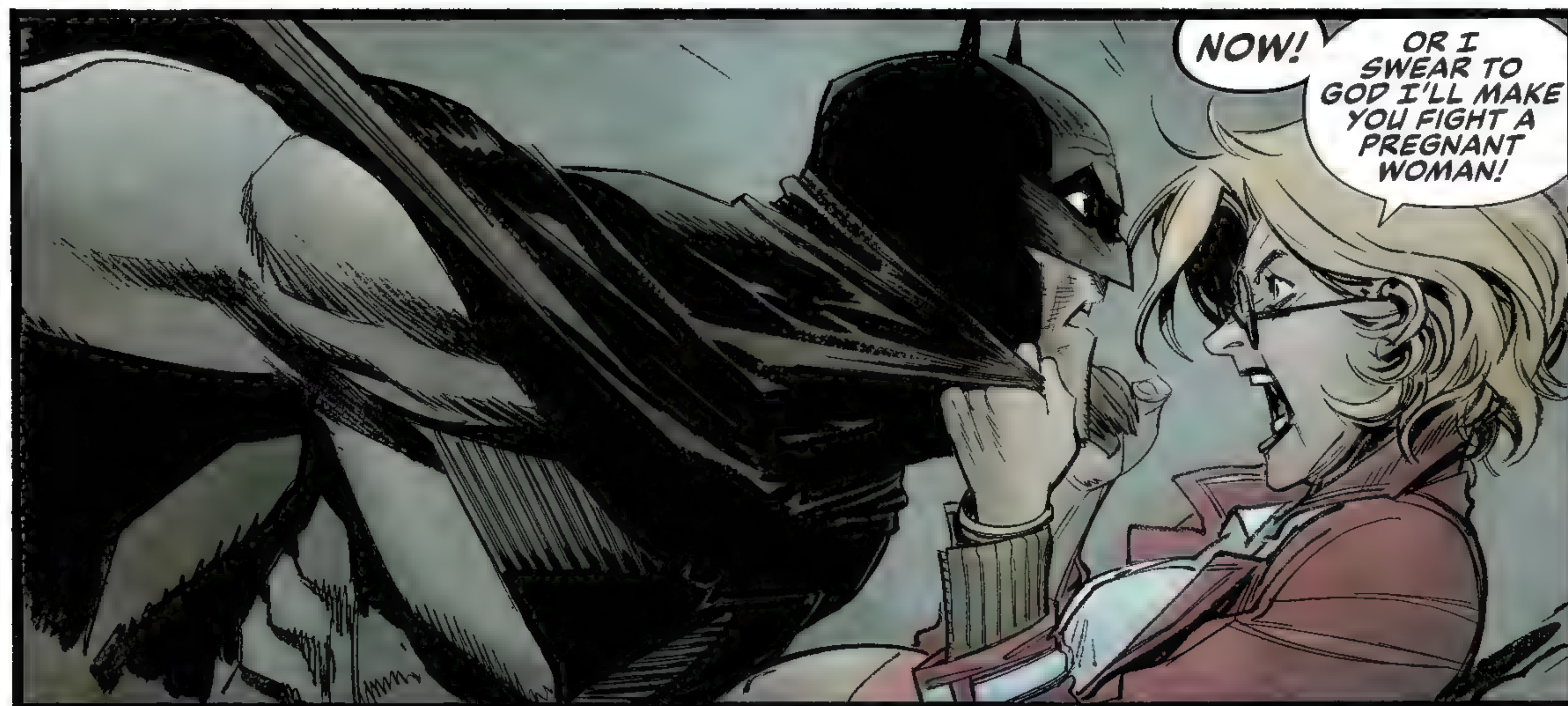


TELL
ME YA GOT
**BAT-STRENGTH
PAINKILLERS** IN
YOUR BELT!

IT'S NOT
A GOOD IDEA.
WE DON'T KNOW
HOW SAFE--

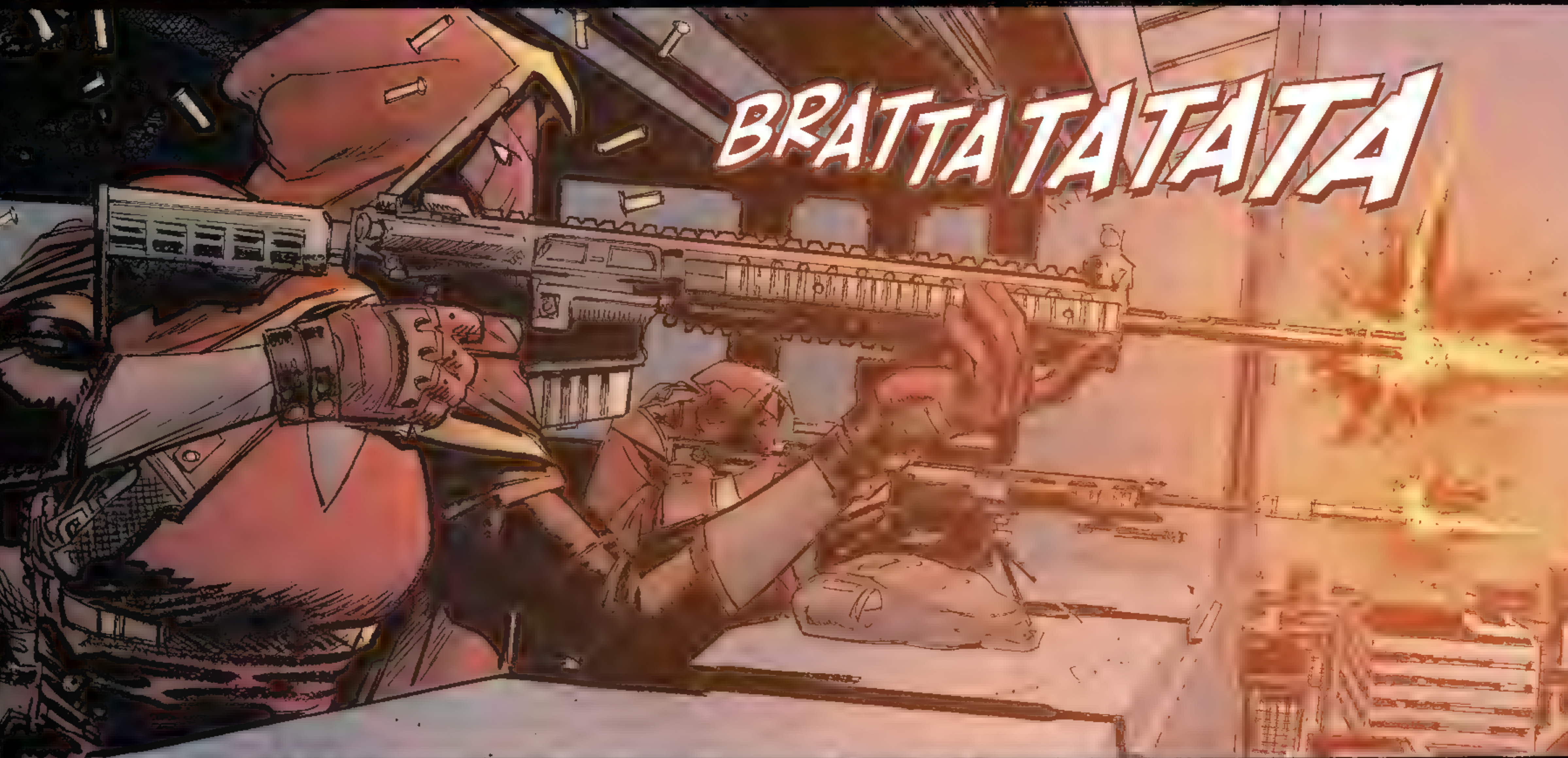
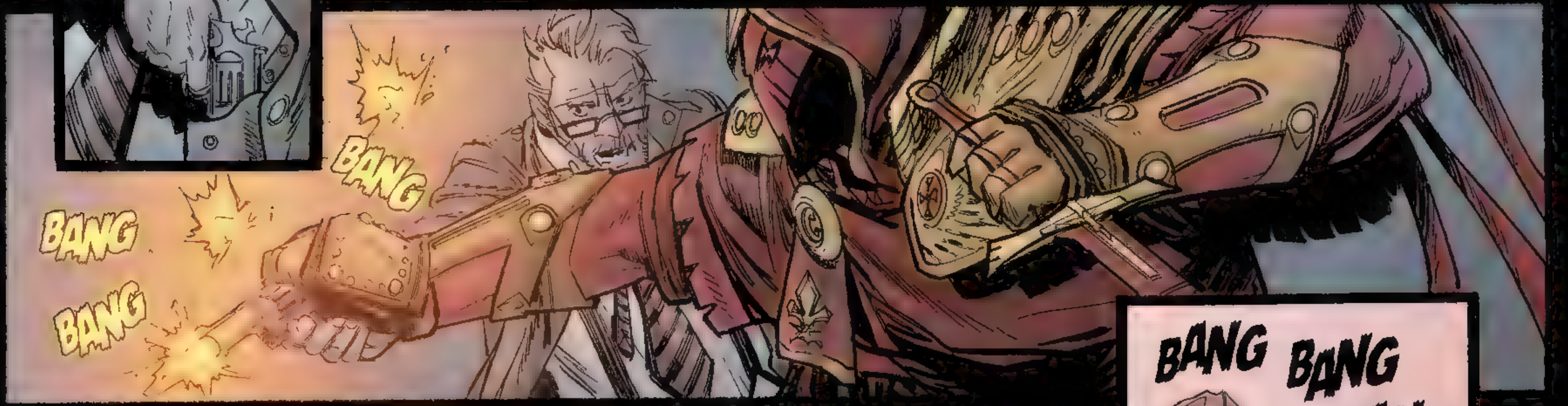
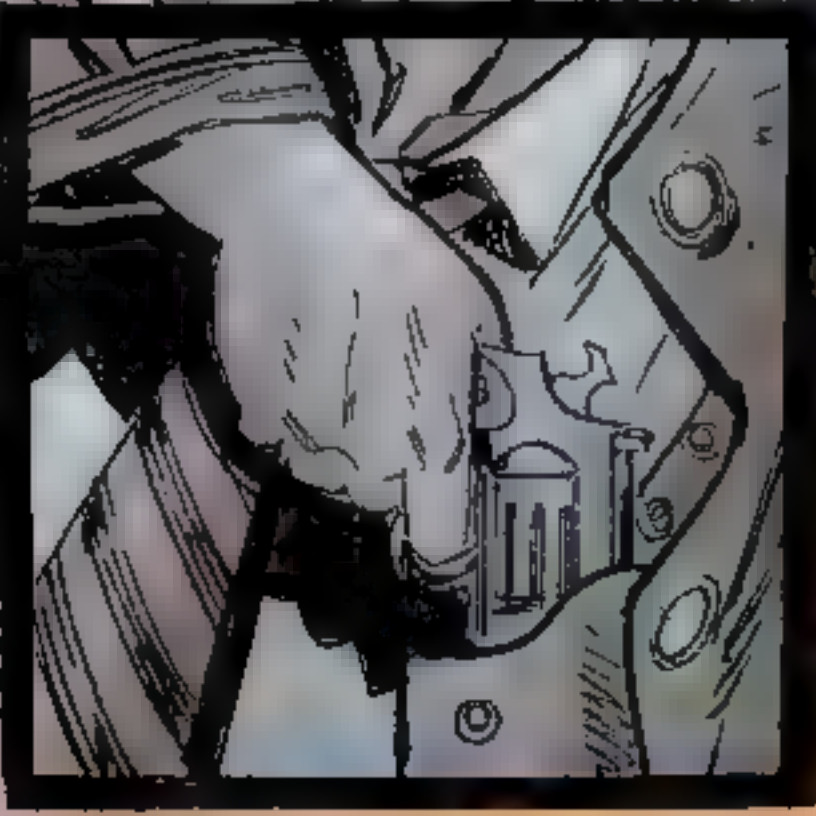
**GIMME THE
DRUGS!**

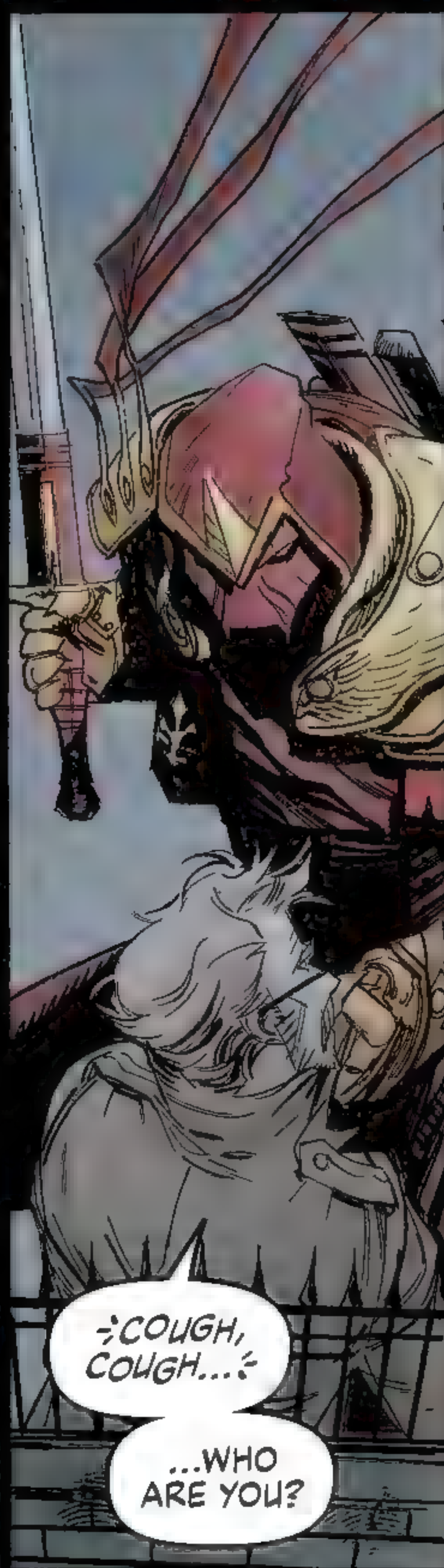
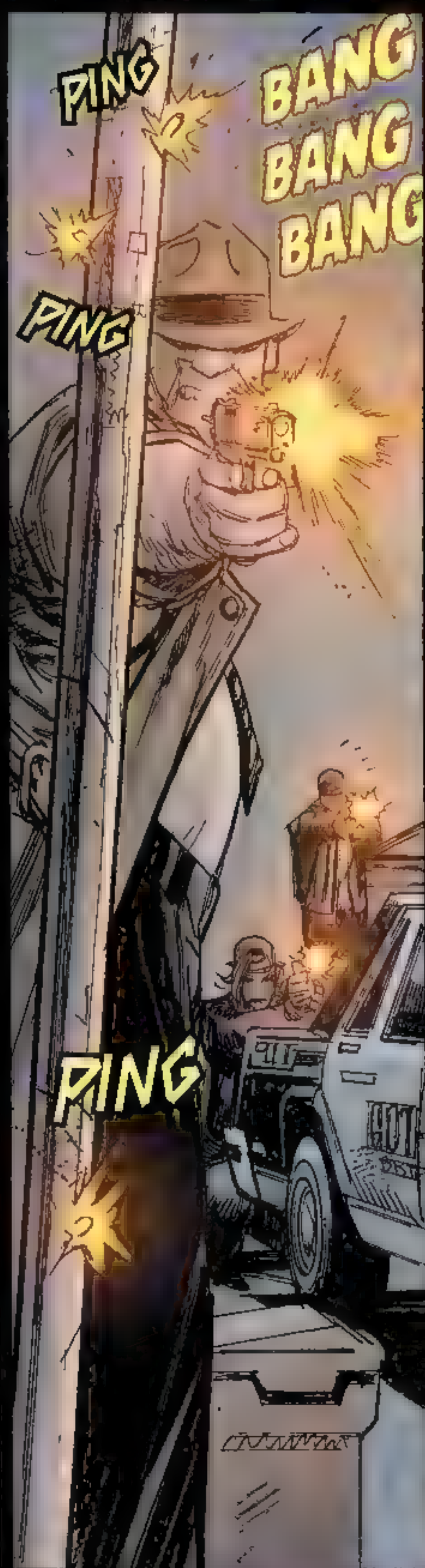
HARLEY,
TRY TO
RELAX--

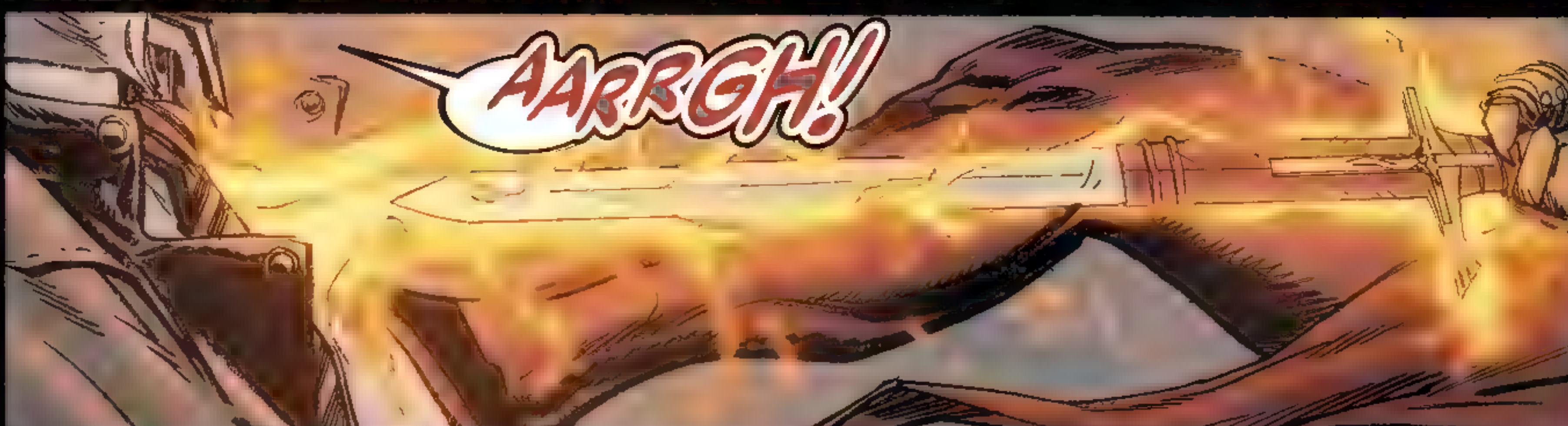
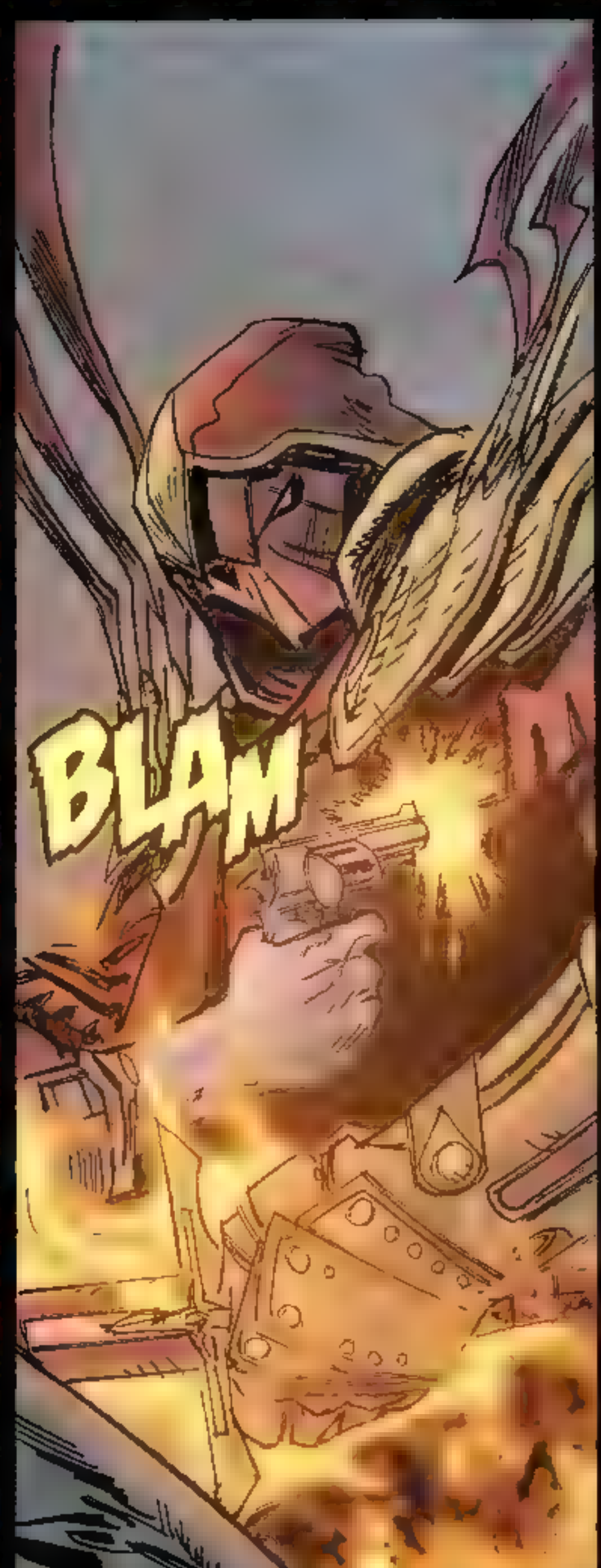
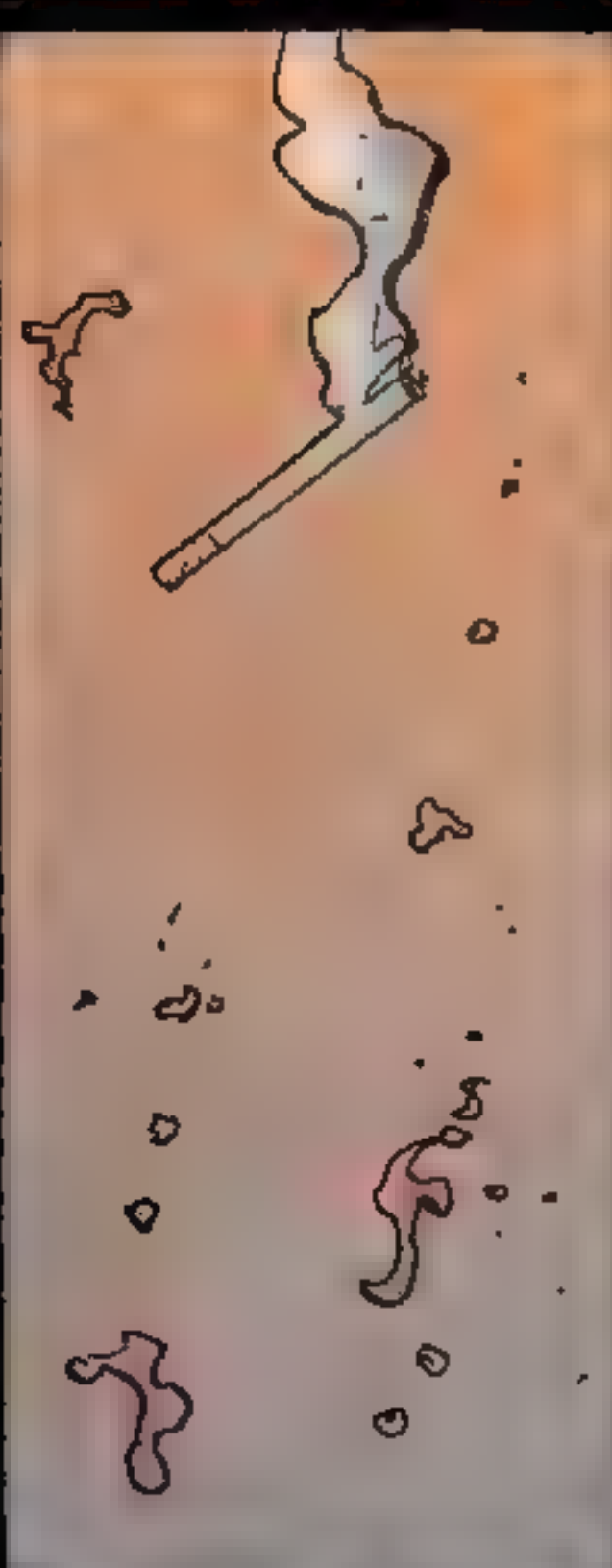
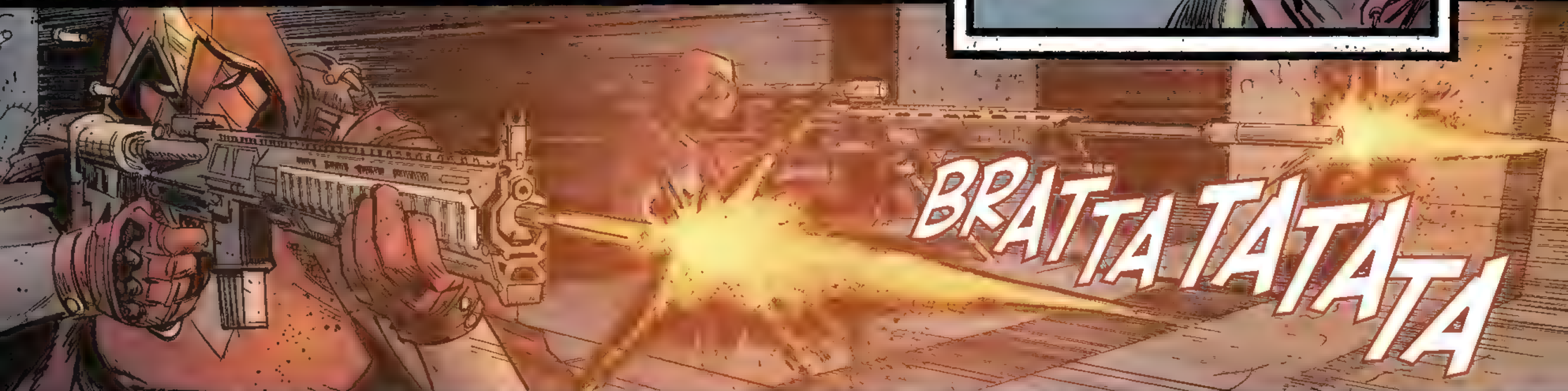
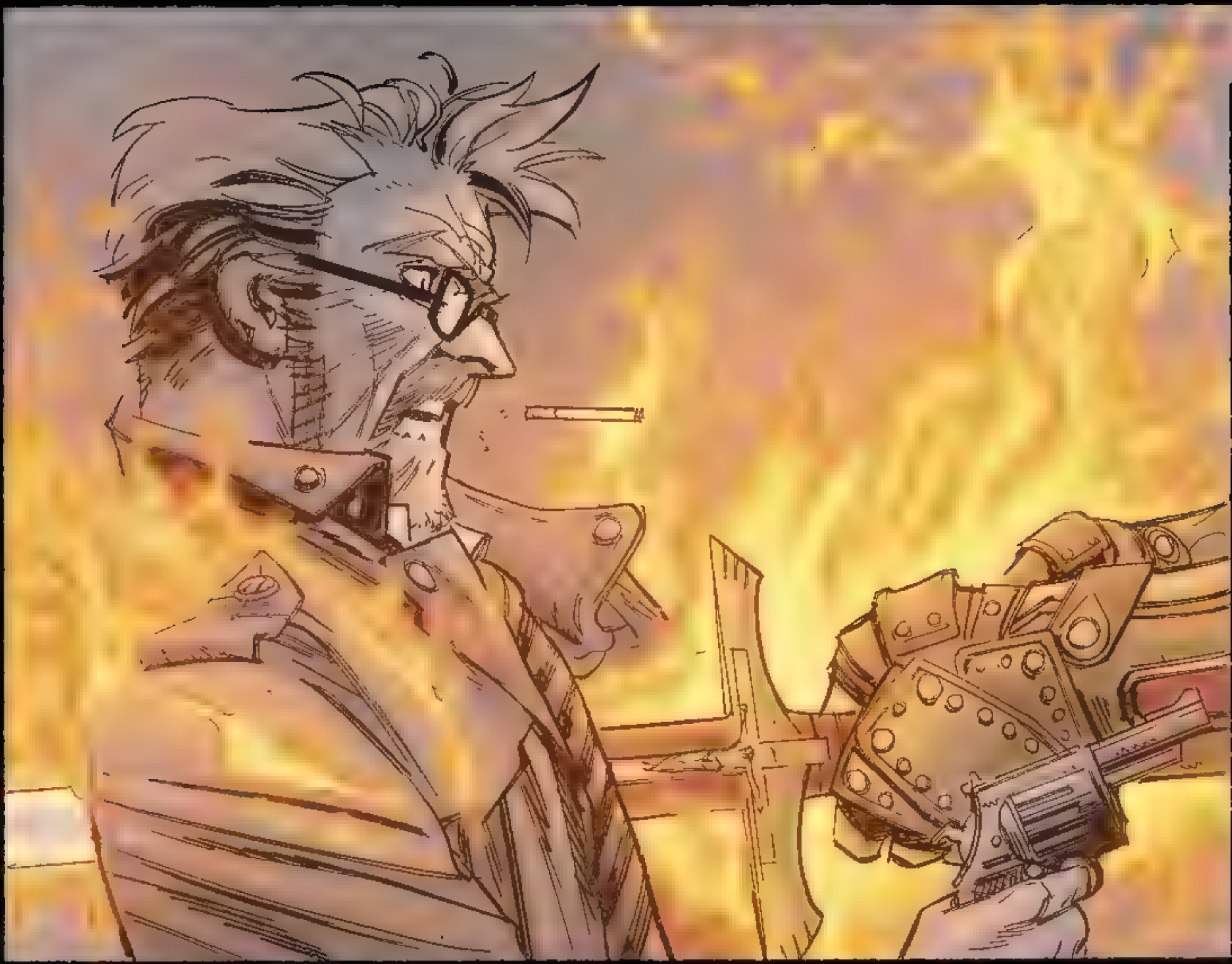


NOW!

OR I
SWEAR TO
GOD I'LL MAKE
YOU FIGHT A
PREGNANT
WOMAN!



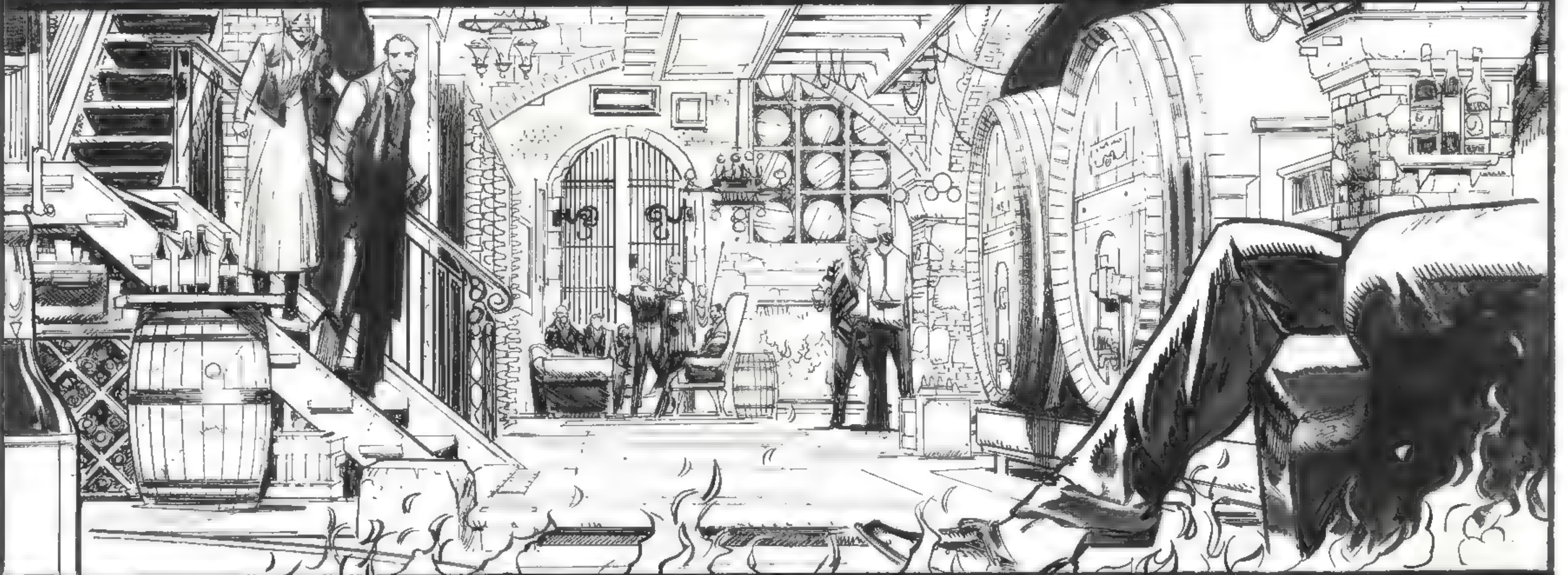




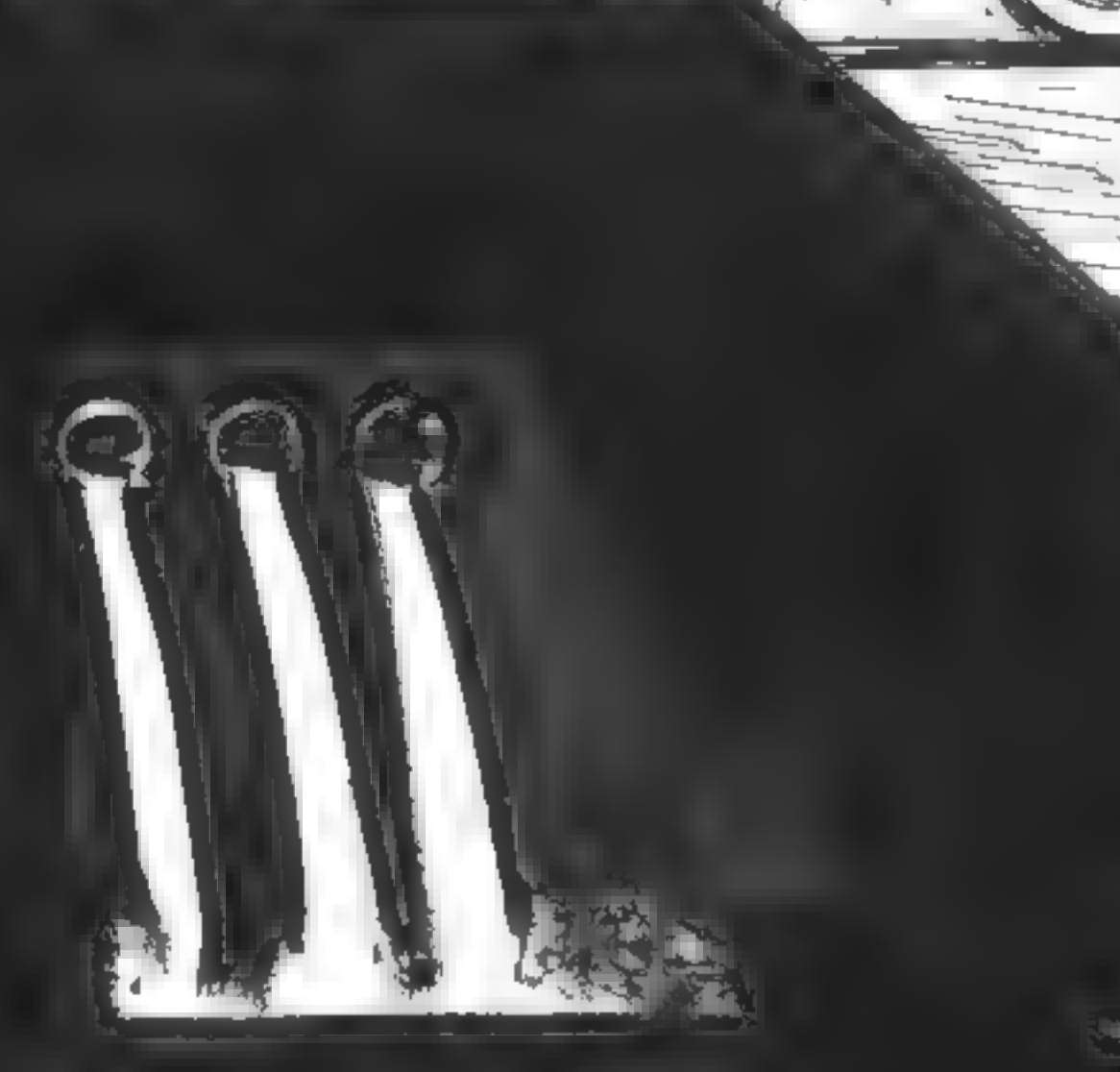
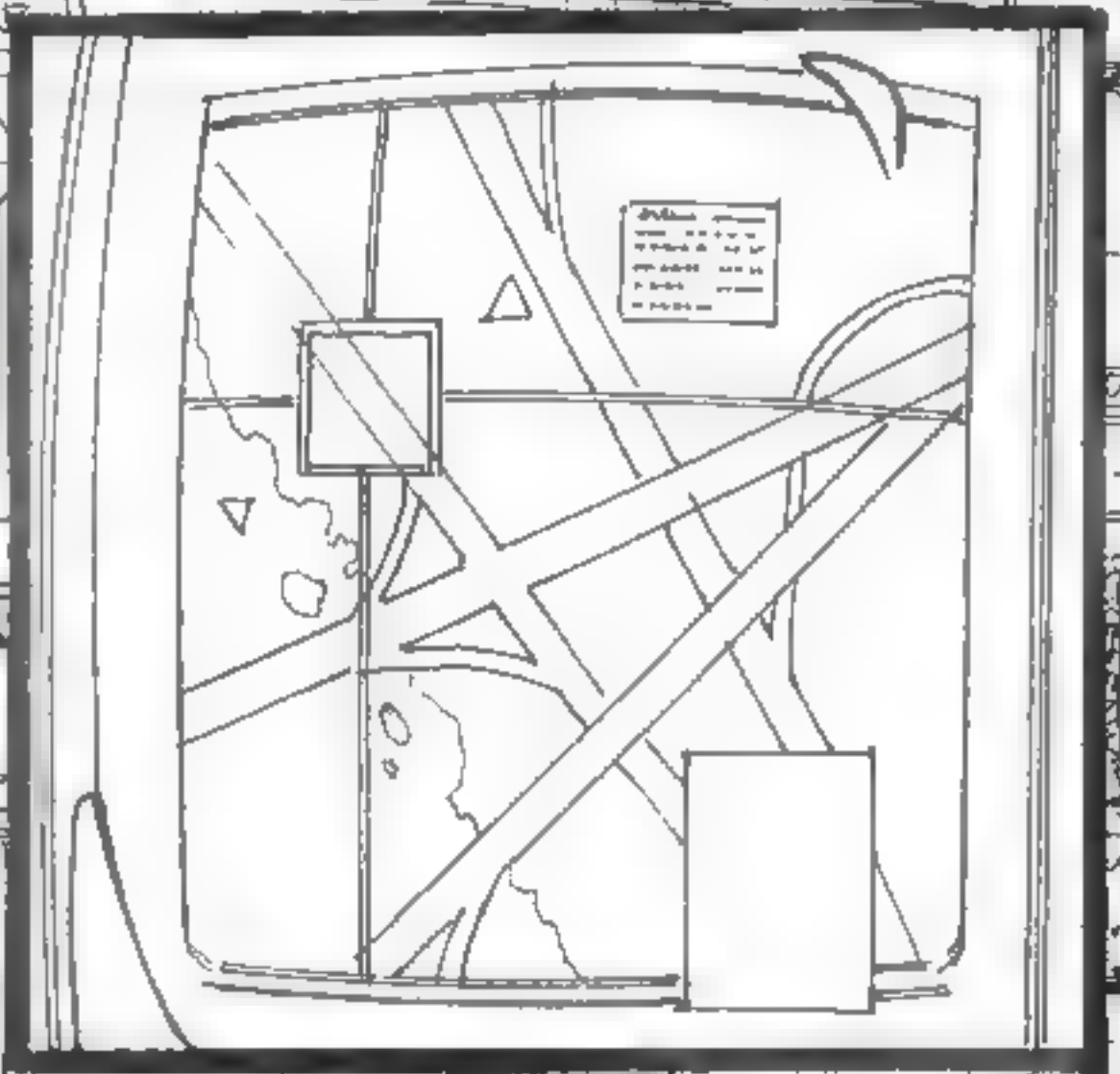
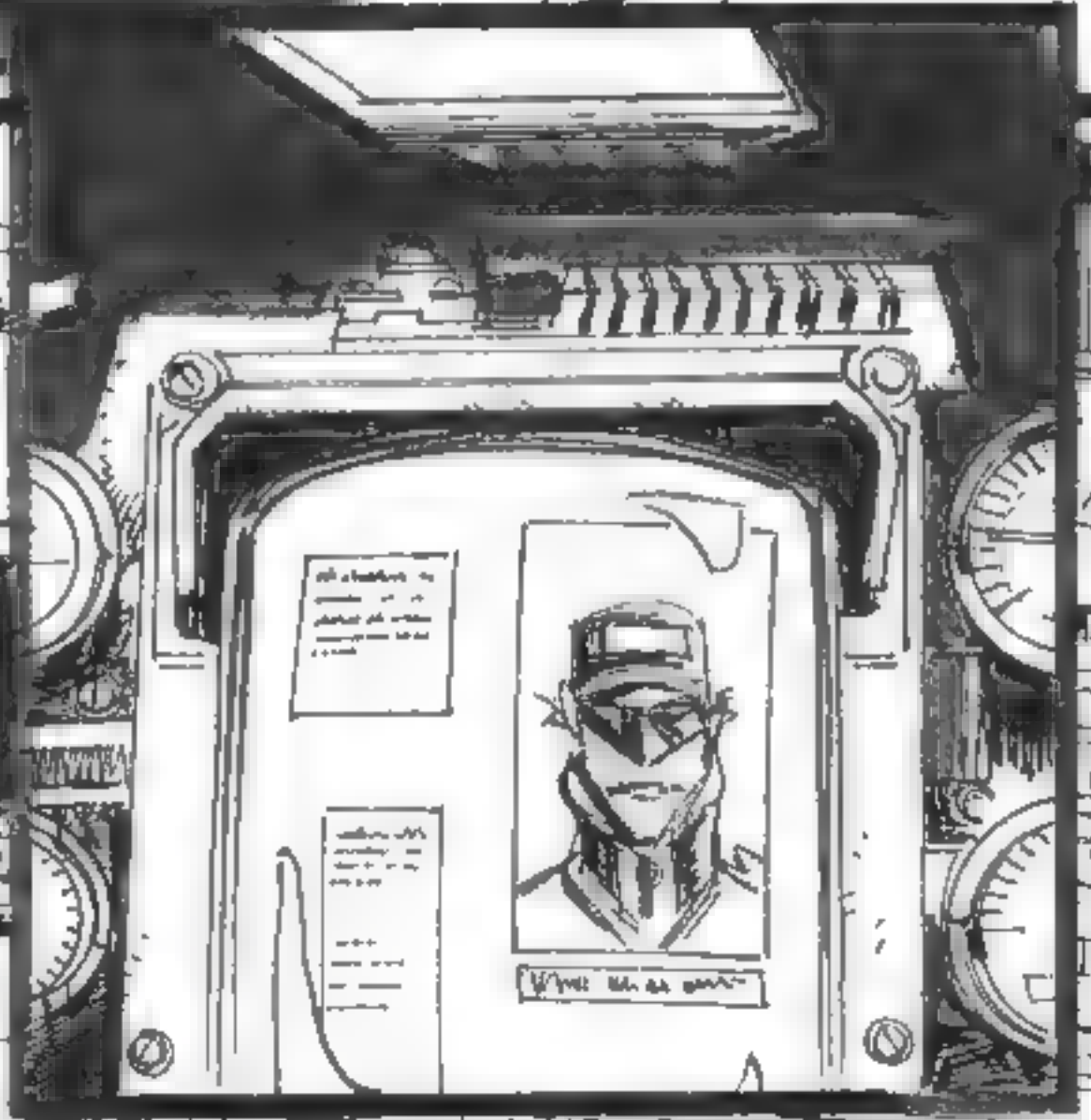
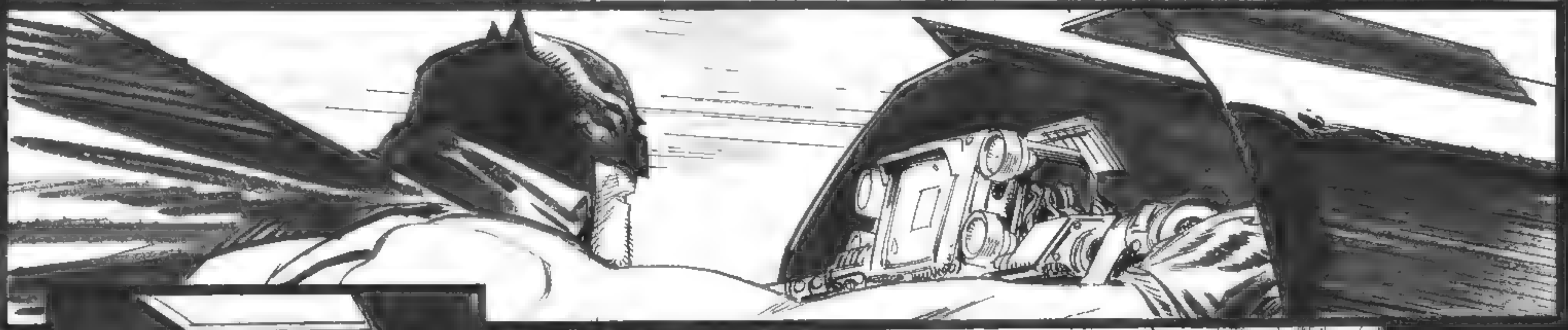
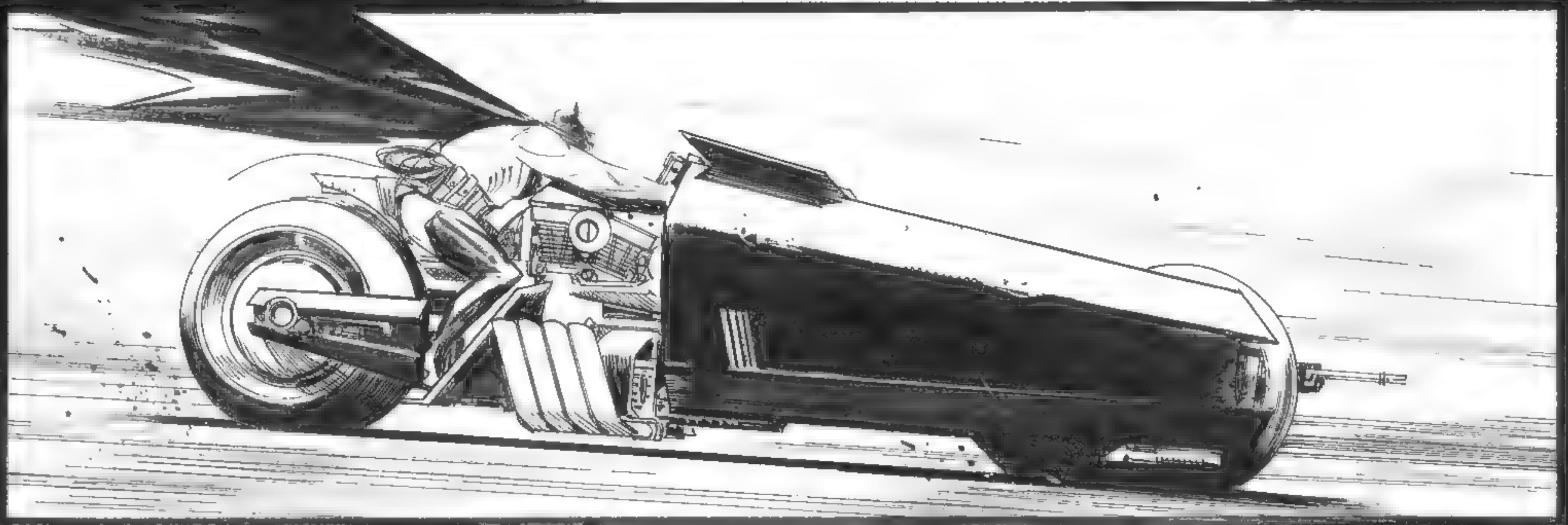


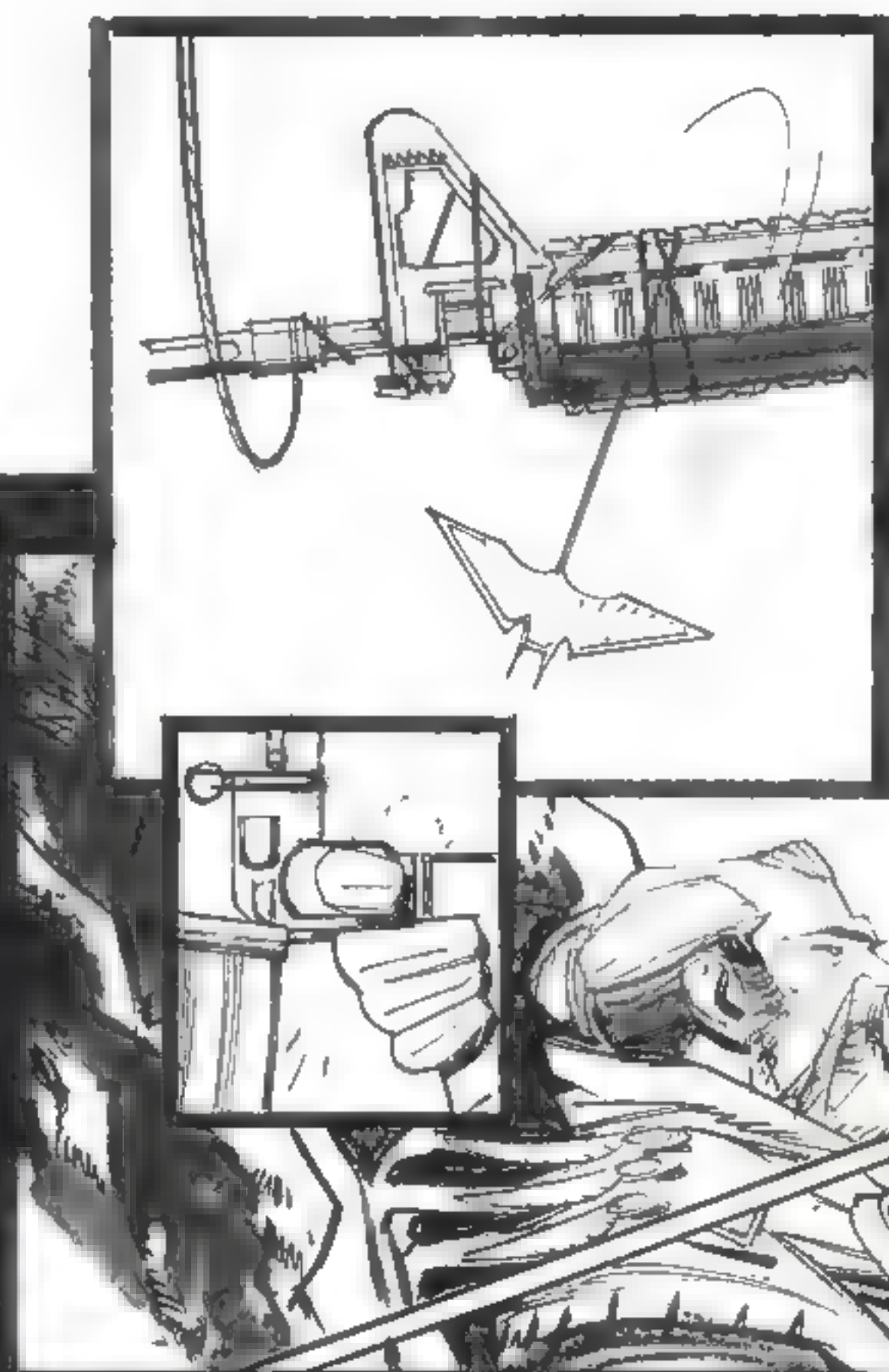
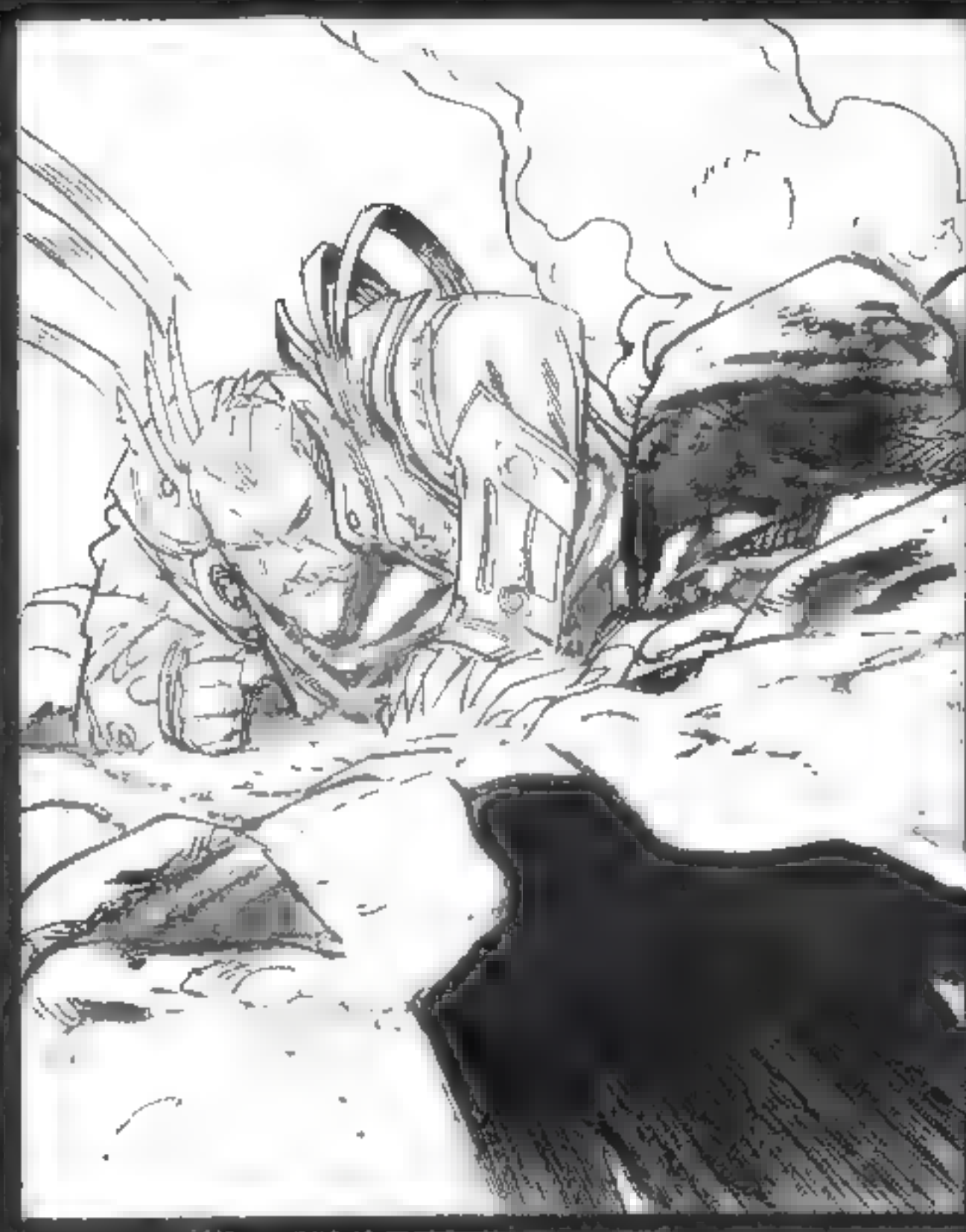
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Black-and-white art for BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT #4 by Sean Murphy

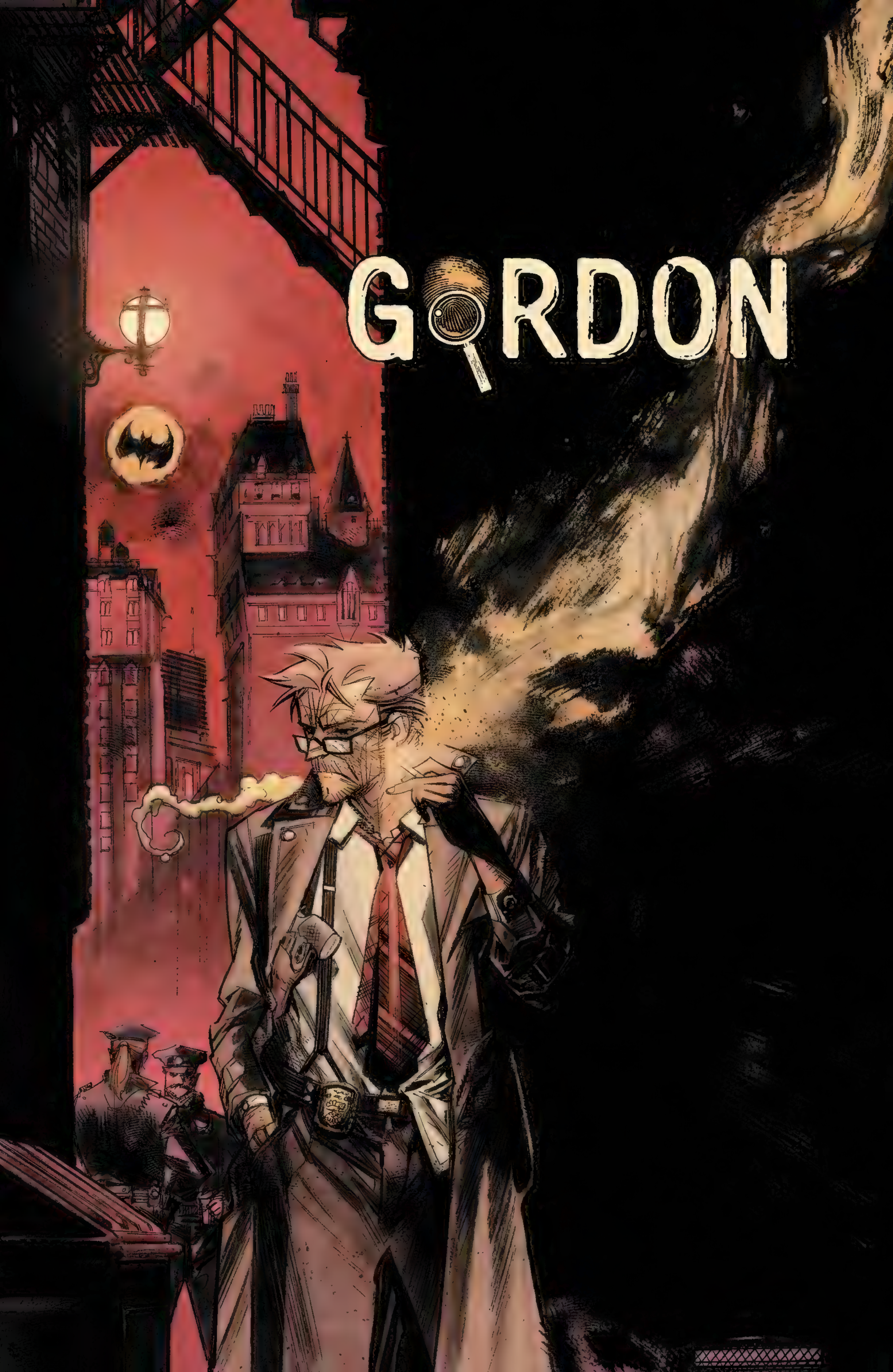








GORDON



Written & illustrated by

SEAN MURPHY

DC
BLACK
LABEL



"Unlike anything
we've seen before." —Nerdist

BATMAN WHITE KNIGHT

SEAN MURPHY with MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

"Cinematic
and graphic."

—A.V. Club

"Murphy
was truly
born to draw
Batman."

—IGN

"A breakout
hit."

—SyFy Wire

"Holy cow
do you get
your
money's
worth."

—Nerdist

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A CURSE, A BIRTHRIGHT,
AND CENTURIES OF LIES...

THE JOKER IS BACK WITH
A DEVASTATING SECRET
TO SHAKE BATMAN AND
GOTHAM TO THE CORE!

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

